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ABSTRACT

Papers on rare books and precious documents which were presented at the 1985 International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) conference include: (1) "The Planned Census of Incunabula in Libraries in the FRG (Federal Republic of Germany): A Contribution to Retrospective Bibliographic Control" (Franz Georg Kaltwasser, West Germany); (2) "The Union Catalog of Incunabula (GW) and the Cataloging of Incunabula by Other Libraries" (Ursula Altmann, East Germany); (3) "Progress Report on the Work on the Reference Book, 'Museums of the Book'" (T. I. Kondakova, USSR); (4) "The Origins of the Chicago Book World" (Robert Rosenthal, United States); (5) "The Universal Availability of Publications Regarding Rare and Precious Books and Documents: Completion of the Czech and Slovak Retrospective National Bibliography 1501-1800/Knihopis" (Jaroslav Vrchotka, Czechoslovakia); (6) "The Rationale of a Rare Books Directory: The West German 'Handbuch der historischen Buchbestande'" (Bernhard Fabian, West Germany); (7) "New Criteria for Rare and Precious Books and Documents: An American View" (Linda Corey Claassen, United States). (THC)

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The planned census of incunabula in libraries in the FRG: a contribution to retrospective bibliographic control.

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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

FRANZ GEORG KALTWASSER: The planned census of incunabula in libraries of the German Federal Republic: a contribution to retrospective bibliographic control.

1. The incunabula catalogue of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek / Bavarian State Library.

Since 1971, with support from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek / Bavarian State Library has been cataloguing its incunabula. It is true that Ludwig Hain compiled his Repertorium bibliographicum (2v. Stuttgart, Paris, 1826-38) mainly from the holdings of the Königliche Hof- und Staatsbibliothek / Royal Court and State Library, now the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek / Bavarian State Library, in Munich. The asterisks against Hain numbers indicate that the entries are based on examination of the copies in the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek / Bavarian State Library. But naturally Hain cannot nowadays be regarded as a catalogue of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek's / Bavarian State Library's incunabula. Even the Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke (GW) (Leipzig, 1925-) cannot serve as such, and is not intended to, as it has a different purpose. The incunabula of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek / Bavarian State Library have now been catalogued, the descriptions including details of their individual provenances and physical make-up. In 1986, the first volume of the catalogue of this collection, numerically the greatest in the world, compiled by Elmar Hertrich and his team, will be published by the firm of Reichert in Wiesbaden. (See: Elmar Hertrich, Der Inkunabelkatalog der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek. IFLA General Conference, Munich 1983; 134-Rare-10-G/E; Elmar Hertrich, Der Inkunabelkatalog der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek. In: Bibliotheksforum Bayern 4 (1976), p.191-211.)

2. Initial plans for a census of incunabula in the German Federal Republic.

While the cataloguing of the incunabula of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek / Bavarian State Library was still in progress, the idea arose of producing a census of incunabula for the Federal Republic of Germany including West Berlin.

The basic idea in the committees of the DFG was that further detailed coverage of other holdings in the form of the Munich catalogue was beyond the means of the DFG. A record of holdings in census form appeared, on the other hand, both possible and sensible as a supra-regional scheme. It was thought desirable to make use of the experiences of the

Munich cataloguing team for this. Initial consultations were begun as early as 27 January 1978, at the Expert Conference on the Publication of the Incunabula Catalogue of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek / Bavarian State Library.

Early in the deliberations on the drawing up of the census, co-operation with the British Library was taken into consideration. The British Library had mounted a census of incunabula in British and some other collections, based on the entries in F.R. Goff's Incunabula in American libraries: a third census (New York, 1964, supplement 1972), to form an Incunable Short Title Catalogue (ISTC) using the computer service BLAISE (British Library Automated Information Service). Following an initiative from the British Library, initial contact with regard to this was made between the DFG and the British Library on 29 September 1980.

At its meeting of 23-24 March 1982, the Library Committee of the DFG endorsed in principle the compilation of a census of incunabula for the German Federal Republic under the central control of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek / Bavarian State Library, and set up a working group to make further preparations for the project.

This working group met for the first time on 6 July 1983 in Munich. It stressed that the wealth of incunabula in the Federal Republic should be seen as an obligation to provide bibliographical access to the collections, and that West Germany should not lag behind other countries such as Belgium, England, France, Holland, Italy, Yugoslavia, Poland, the USSR, Hungary and the USA, which themselves were all compiling or had already published catalogues of their incunabula.

The consequent consultations on the organisation of the task revolved around questions concerning the collection of material, the editing of entries, the linking of entries and location data, the preparation of concordances, etc. From the outset it was clear that a project of this kind was best carried out with the aid of the computer, since in this way it would be on the one hand a simple matter to expand the data-base, and on the other it would be possible to interrogate it from various points of view. One outcome of these consultations was the preparation of a questionnaire to be sent to institutions known to own incunabula.

The possibility of co-operation with the British Library was discussed at a meeting between a delegation of German librarians assembled by the DFG and

delegates from the British Library held in London on 7-8 February 1983, and then more particularly at a conference of representatives of the British Library and the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek / Bavarian State Library on 18 October 1983 in Munich. At the latter session, technical problems were discussed. The preferred plan envisaged the creation, in addition to the British Library data-base, of a corresponding data-base for the census of incunabula in the German Federal Republic, which would however make use of the British Library's records.

There then arose, however, the question of whether the technical requirements of co-operation between the British Library and the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek / Bavarian State Library ought to be further explored, or whether the scope of the incunabula census project should first be determined.

In favour of the first possibility was the fact that the British Library was ready to proceed, and had already made magnetic tapes with incunabula records available for test purposes. The DFG had also supported such an experiment financially.

The authorities of the state of Bavaria required, on the other hand, that the scope and duration of the project should be more precisely estimated before work begins. This is understandable in view of the current climate of financial restraint. In addition, the cataloguing network of Bavarian libraries, whose programs were to be made use of, is in the process of converting to an on-line system, an operation which absorbs all its energies. This system is urgently required on account of the size of the network, whose catalogue comprises almost five million main entries and is growing at the rate of over 700,000 a year.

The decision first to ascertain the scope led to the questionnaire campaign, concerning which a more detailed report now follows.

3. The 1984 questionnaire campaign to record the incunabula holdings of of libraries in the German Federal Republic.

In July 1984, the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek / Bavarian State Library sent out the questionnaire with a covering letter. Both are added as an appendix to this report. The questions concerned statistical data on the holdings, the status of their catalogues, and also the possibilities of co-operation. In this way the extent of the incunabula holdings were to be established, as well as the possible requirements for organising work on the project.

The total extent of the incunabula holdings of West German libraries can naturally not be recorded by means of a single questionnaire campaign, and further investigations will have to be made. But it may be said that all the major collections, and very many of the medium-sized and smaller ones, were covered in the campaign, so that the further search will relate only to the smaller and the very smallest holdings.

The survey was based on the list of "abbreviations of the incunabula collections" in the first two post-war instalments of the GW (Bd.VIII, 1, 2. Stuttgart, Berlin, New York, 1972-73, p.*39-*100), which represents a revised version of the corresponding index in Bd.1 of the GW (Leipzig, 1925, p.xxxii-lxiii). The addresses of the collections listed had first to be established, however, a task not to be underrated which led to inevitable uncertainties.

Questionnaires were sent to 412 addresses. Of these, 224 responded, either by returning the questionnaire, completed or not, or by writing to express their views on it. That represents a response rate of 54%. In fact, however, the positive response rate was higher, as at the time the list was revised the GW was unaware of the dispersal, transfer or merger of numerous incunabula collections; a proportion of the collection to which questionnaires were sent have in the meantime been absorbed into others which did respond. In addition, in the cases of some ecclesiastical and school libraries there were several possible addressees to be considered, of whom only one could be the owner of incunabula. Many collections or owning institutions had changed their name.

Altogether, the owners of the incunabula were very willing to provide information. Only lesser collections failed to respond: monastic and school libraries, private libraries, archives and historical asasociations. This means that the first questionnaire campaign was very successful, and mapped out the essential part of the "incunabula scene".

A second sweep will certainly have to be made to record other minor collections. It will have to be directed not only at those collections which did not respond the first time, but also at those additional collections which were revealed by information from some government and ecclesiastical

libraries and which are not listed in the GW. It will then remain to be decided whether a search should be made, using relevant specialist or regional journals, for other hitherto completely unknown collections.

4. Extent of the incunabula holdings in libraries in the German Federal Republic.

Of the 224 responses received, those giving negative reports were excluded, as were those notifying a change in the conditions of ownership and those refusing to give any information. The details of 173 collections eventually remained to be evaluated. They represented incunabula holdings of 100,466 books and 1,016 broadsides, giving a total of 101,482 fifteenth-century printed works within the borders of the German Federal Republic and West Berlin

Two West German collections hold more than 5,000 copies. The Bayerische Staatsbibliothek / Bavarian State Library in Munich has 18,570 copies (including 2,400 uncatalogued duplicates), and the Württembergische Landesbibliothek / Württemberg State Library in Stuttgart has 6,845 copies. Twenty-three collections have holdings of 1,000 to 5,000 copies. A further fifty-nine collections each have from 100 to 1,000 copies, the remaining eighty-nine having less than 100 copies each.

Summary

25 major collections (over 1,000 copies)	with	79,826 copies
59 middle-ranking collections (100-1,000 copies)	with	18,403 copies
89 minor collections (under 100 copies)	with	2,237 copies
173 collections	with	100,466 copies (excluding broadsides)

Collections with over 1,000 copies of incunable books (excluding broadsides) in order of size:

Munich, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek*/ Bavarian State Library*	18,570 copies
Stuttgart, Landesbibliothek / State Library	6,800 "
Munich, Universitätsbibliothek*/ University Library*	ca.5,000 "
Göttingen, Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek / State and University Library	ca.4,000 "

Wolfenbüttel, Herzog-August-Bibliothek / Duke Augustus Library	3,550	copies
Freiburg, Universitätsbibliothek / University Library	3,443	"
Bamberg, Staatsbibliothek*/ State Library*	3,400	"
Berlin, Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz / Prussian State Library	3,123	"
Würzburg, Universitätsbibliothek*/ University Library*	2,890	"
Augsburg, Staats- und Stadtbibliothek*/ State and City Library*	2,760	"
Frankfurt, Stadt- und Universitätsbibliothek / City and University Library	2,732	"
Trier, Stadtbibliothek / City Library	2,500	"
Mainz, Stadtbibliothek / City Library	2,494	"
Cologne, Universitätsbibliothek / University Library	2,345	"
Darmstadt, Landesbibliothek / State Library	2,200	"
Nuremberg, Stadtbibliothek*/ City Library*	2,000	"
Heidelberg, Universitätsbibliothek / University Library	1,695	"
Tübingen, Universitätsbibliothek / University Library	1,650	"
Erlangen, Universitätsbibliothek*/ University Library*	1,400	"
Regensburg, Hofbibliothek des Fürsten von Thurn und Taxis/ Court Library of the Prince of Thurn und Taxis	1,330	"
Bonn, Universitätsbibliothek / University Library	1,298	"
Karlsruhe, Landesbibliothek / State Library	1,270	"

6 (415)

Hildesheim, Dombibliothek / Cathedral Library	1,156	copies
Eichstätt, Universitätsbibliothek*/ University Library*	1,113	*
Regensburg, Staatliche Bibliothek*/ State Library*	1,107	*
Total:	79,826	*

This table shows very clearly that, of the overall total of 100,466 copies, 79,826 -- precisely 79.5% -- are to be found in the twenty-five major collections. Thus with the recording of these copies in a census, four fifths of the known holdings of incunabula would already be covered. Even with the discovery of other minor collections, this percentage will not alter very much.

Another fact may be deduced from this survey: of the 79, 826 incunabula in the major collections, no fewer than 39,570, i.e. 49.6% or virtually half, are housed in Bavaria (the Bavarian libraries are marked with asterisks in the above table). This observation is made to point out why Munich is an appropriate choice for compiling a census of incunabula.

It may also be remarked in passing that, of the 1,016 incunable broadsides, 551 are in the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek / Bavarian State Library.

The fact that 79.5% of the known holdings of incunabula are found in the twenty-five major collections makes these the natural basis of a West German census of incunabula. Although even the smallest collections indisputably possess items of great rarity and copies of particular importance for the history of the book, for compiling the census on the other hand it is of crucial importance to decide in what way the twenty-five major collections (with over 1,000 copies) and then the fifty-nine middle-ranking ones (100-1,000 copies) can be recorded. The question there is how best to make use of the existing cataloguing apparatus of the collections, in order to achieve an economical recording, as far as possible without direct examination.

5. The state of bibliographical access to incunabula collections in the German Federal Republic

The picture presented by West German incunabula collections with regard to their level of bibliographical accessibility is indeed a motley one. A computer-based census with the possibility of on-line access is however conceivable; all alternatives are distinctly unappealing.

5.1 Collections with published catalogues.

The number of incunabula collections known through published catalogues is considerable. The survey has shown that no fewer than forty-six collections, with total holdings of 47,694 incunabula, have a printed catalogue at their disposal. This figure includes, of course, a slight anticipation of future events, insofar as it includes the incunabula of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek / Bavarian State Library, the catalogue of which is only now reaching the press. But as there exists complete text ready for the printer of the major portion of this catalogue, the alphabetical author-title sequence, and as consultations are preceeding on the assumption that the census will be compiled at the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek / Bavarian State Library, it seems justified to include this catalogue in the calculations.

Unfortunately the published catalogues, which could cover in all 47.4% of West German incunabula holdings, are of very unequal value as far as their usefulness for the census is concerned. Only twenty-five catalogues, with a total of 36,910 incunabula, have been published since 1945 and can therefore readily be incorporated into a census. Twenty-one catalogues, with descriptions of 10,784 copies in all, are of earlier date, some going back to the first half of the nineteenth century. These are of widely varying reliability and usefulness, depending on whether they were drawn up by professional incunabulists - in some phase of preparation for the GW - or originated in the spare time of a more or less expert amateur, perhaps a teacher, who steadfastly refused to acknowledge the existence of Ludwig Hain's Repertorium bibliographicum. In any case, these pre-war catalogues cannot be uncritically incorporated into a census. Their reliability as a record of holdings would have to be tested, and their bibliographical statements updated, before they can

be sent for keyboarding.

Nonetheless, from the present state of our knowledge, 36.7% of West German incunabula could without any problem be incorporated into a census from published catalogues. For a further 11%, this would be possible after a critical revision and correction of older catalogues.

5.2 Collections with internal bibliographical aids.

A further 43% of copies (43,180) are in collections which do not have a published, or publishable, catalogue at their disposal, but are covered by internal measures to such an extent that access is basically possible via a catalogue arranged alphabetically or on historical principles, via Hain and GW concordances, through Hain and GW numbers entered in the books, or via an index of printers. In the case of these collections, numerically very significant, everything will depend, as far as the census is concerned, on the degree to which their custodians and administrators are willing and able to support the project and to co-operate in it.

5.3 Uncatalogued collections.

At the other end of the scale, let us now look at the wholly uncatalogued incunabula collections. A number of ecclesiastical, monastic and school libraries admit to being in this position, as do some archives. None of these collections has more than one hundred incunabula, however — most of them even less than twenty. In all, these thousand or so incunabula constitute scarcely 1% of the total West German holdings.

There is of course a larger proportion of collections which do have a record of some kind, such as a finding-list, a shelflist or an inventory, but no incunabula catalogue with passably reliable bibliographic data. In this category must be included the very considerable number of collections which list their incunabula together with the other printed books in their general alphabetical catalogue, but which allow no special access of any sort to fifteenth-century printed books in particular. For our purposes, these collections are inadequately catalogued. There are forty-seven of them as far as is presently known, owning 8,588 incunabula, or about 8.6% of the total West German holdings.

To sum up, it may be said that just under 10% of West German incunabula cannot currently be recorded in a census without prior examination.

Examination, however, is most problematic precisely in those collections with little or nothing to help the bibliographer. Of a total of nineteen collections which declare themselves to be temporarily or permanently inaccessible, ten also belong to the group whose holdings are scarcely accessible bibliographically, and seven of them in addition decline to co-operate in a future census or appear uninterested in a record of their holdings. It is to be expected that there will be a further increase in the number of collections which are catalogued inadequately for the purposes of the census, when another, more detailed, recording of the ecclesiastical and monastic collections, school libraries and archives gets under way.

5.4 Summary of the state of bibliographical access.

- 36.7% of the incunabula are covered by printed catalogues of the post-war period. The incorporation of this data in a census poses no problems.
- 10.7% are covered by printed catalogues from before 1945. These must be checked, primarily with regard to the holdings data.
- 43% are accessible via existing internal bibliographical aids. In such cases, recording for a census is generally possible without examination of the books. For this major group, however, everything depends on having flexible on-line access to a suitable data-base.
- 8.6% are catalogued in some way, but not adequately. Examination is necessary.
- 1% is completely uncatalogued. Examination is necessary.

6. Readiness of the collections to co-operate.

Here the survey showed largely positive results. Agreement and readiness to co-operate were displayed by the great majority of those in charge of administering the incunabula collections. Only twenty-four expressed reservations or declined. They declined to co-operate and to have their holdings recorded in a census, either from antipathy to centralised recording or for reasons of security; or else they advanced personal reasons preventing them from supporting the project in any way. In the former group there were, among others, eight private collections in the hands of the nobility; in the latter, primarily ecclesiastical and monastic collections, school libraries, archives and museums. The

collections temporarily or permanently opposed to being recorded hold 1,300 incunabula, that is a mere 1.3% of West German holdings.

One can thus proceed on the assumption that the owners and administrators of 98% of the West German incunabula holdings known from the survey are basically well disposed towards, and willing to co-operate in, their recording. The predominantly favourable reception of the questionnaire was also discernable in the fact that some of the smaller collections sent copies of their records, such as manuscript catalogues and even printed publications relating to their incunabula holdings. Many also passed on the addresses of nearby institutions of which they supposed the sender of the questionnaire to be unaware; nor was there any lack of cheering and encouraging words in the covering letters. However it was clear that, in general, the projected census cannot rely on extensive active co-operation from the incunabula collections. Only exceptionally do monastic and ecclesiastical libraries have full-time staff with a basic knowledge of incunabula; school libraries never have them. Archivists and museum curators are as a rule in a state of innocence as far as dealing with incunabula is concerned. Ludwig Hain is as a rule unknown to them. Throughout the librarians' responses, however, runs like an unbroken thread the regret that inadequate staffing and excessive workloads scarcely allow them to commit themselves to the recording of the incunabula, or to active co-operation in a West German census.

7. Conclusion.

Given this situation, the important point is to adapt the data from the individual collections in such a way -- through skilful use of the computer and the manifold possibilities of access to a data-base which it provides -- that the bibliographical identification of copies is achieved with the least possible expense of time and money on direct examination.

In the well-known collections, incunabula today are heavily-used sources for scholarly research. The interest has shifted from typography and printing history, largely the preserves of librarians, to research into textual transmission carried out by scholars of various disciplines. Unknown collections, however, lie fallow. The task of the census is to make them accessible to scholarship.

[Covering letter for the questionnaire.]

Census of incunabula for the German Federal Republic

Dear Sir or Madam,

Following the example of Goff's census of incunabula in North American libraries, already the third national census of the USA, various countries have in recent years made public their holdings of incunabula through national or regional catalogues. In other countries, such as Great Britain and the Soviet Union, such catalogues are currently in progress. The benefits of national short-title incunabula catalogues, with the fullest possible location data, are undisputed. As there exist, in the German Federal Republic, rich but widely scattered holdings of incunabula, a comprehensive record of those locations would both effect a lasting improvement in working facilities here, and make it possible to establish a link with international developments in this field.

The Library Committee of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft has endorsed in principle the planned compilation of a census of incunabula for the German Federal Republic. But in order to be able to prepare a plan for costing and financing such a project, it is necessary first to get an idea of the extent of the incunabula holdings, of the prerequisites for their recording, and finally of the willingness to co-operate in the individual collections.

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft has asked the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek / Bavarian State Library to launch a survey for this purpose. In recent years, with the help of the DFG, a catalogue of the incunabula in our library was prepared, and will shortly be printed. A team of experienced staff is therefore already available.

We should be very grateful if you would complete the accompanying questionnaire by 1 October 1984 and return it to us.

We shall report on the results of the survey at an appropriate time. We would however like to express our gratitude to you now for your valuable support.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. F.G. Kaltwasser
Director of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek / Bavarian State Library.

Census of incunabula for the German Federal Republic

Survey of holdings, administration and bibliographical coverage of fifteenth-century printed material.

1. Name of owner of incunabula (library, archive, institute, museum, private collection, etc.):

2. Address:

Telephone:

3. Parent body: Federal/provincial government ( )
Municipality/local council ( )
Church ( ) Private ( )
Other (please give details) ( )

4. The incunabula collection is administered by a librarian ( ) an archivist ( ) another member of staff ( ) is currently not in specialist care ( )

Name of member of staff responsible for the incunabula collection:

5. Incunabula housed separately ( ) dispersed among holdings of other material ( )

6. Number of editions (bibliographically separate units) of incunable books held: number of copies: number of volumes:

7. Number of editions of incunable broadsides: number of copies:

8. Access to the incunabula:

8.1 by means of a catalogue arranged alphabetically ( ) or according to places of printing/printers ( ), printed ( ) or not printed ( ). If published, please give bibliographical details:

8.2 by means of an index of printers? Yes ( ) No ( )

8.3 by means of concordances to the GW[1] ( ) to Hain/Copinger/Reichling (HCR)[2] ( ) to other printed incunabula catalogues (please give details):

8.4 also by means of a catalogue of incunabula not listed in HCR? Yes ( ) No ( ) -- Number of such incunable editions in the collection (estimate if necessary):

8.5 by means of other internal cataloguing aids ( ) (please give details):

9. Can a copy of these cataloguing aids be made available? Yes ( ) No ( )

10. Could details of the incunabula holdings be provided in the form of GW numbers ( ) or HCR numbers ( ) either directly or by means of number lists?

11. Written information will ( ) will not ( ) be supplied.

12. If a draft list (alphabetical short-title catalogue with bibliographical references) were circulated, could the incunabula collection
12.1 enter details of identified holdings? Yes ( ) No ( )
12.2 also add its non-identified holdings in the form of additional short-title records with bibliographical references? Yes ( ) No ( )
12.3 also incorporate detailed descriptions of incunabula unrecorded bibliographically? Yes ( ) No ( )

13. Can copies or microfilms of individual pages be provided if required for cataloguing purposes?

14. The incunabula collection is generally accessible to researchers ( ) can be made accessible for the purpose of recording it in a census of incunabula ( ) is currently not accessible ( )

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1. Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke. Bd.1-8,1. Leipzig, 1925-40. Bd.8-9,1. Stuttgart, Berlin, New York, 1972-81.
2. Ludwig Hain: Repertorium bibliographicum. 2v. Stuttgart, Paris, 1826-38. Walter A. Copinger: Supplement to Hain's Repertorium bibliographicum. London, 1895-1902. Dieter Reichling: Appendices ad Hainii-Copingeri Repertorium bibliographicum. Munich, 1905-14.

15. Is the collection interested in having its own holdings of incunabula recorded in a West German census of incunabula? Yes ( ) No ( )

16. Is the collection interested in a print-out of the entries relating to its own holdings? Yes ( ) No ( )

17. Literature on the incunabula collection:

18. Remarks:

....

(Date) (Signature)

IFLA COUNCIL AND GENERAL CONFERENCE CHICAGO 1985
Division: Collections and Services
Section: Rare and Precious Books and Documents

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The Union Catalogue of Incunabula (GW) and the cataloguing of incunabula by other libraries

by

Ursula ALTMANN
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The necessity of cataloguing incunabula is unchallenged. As a part of the cultural heritage of mankind incunabula are of a high spiritual and material value. Therefore in all countries owning a large amount of incunabula endeavours towards cataloguing these holdings are in progress or have already resulted in publications.

The declared meaning of this cataloguing is:

1. To inventory and to record the incunabula in order to protect and prevent them from being lost.
2. To inform on the extant copies thus giving documentary evidence of the availability of an edition.
3. To make available sources for scientific research.

All catalogues of incunabula serve these aims: the catalogues of individual collections, the union lists of the countries, the Union Catalogue of Incunabula (GW) published by the German State Library Berlin/GDR, and the new Incunable Short Title Catalogue (ISTC) started by the British Library in London. Moreover, some of these catalogues have taken over special functions: The "Catalogue of books printed in the XVth century now in the British Museum" (BMC) registers an important collection which represents the printed books of the 15th century very well in connection with their origin. It arranges all extant printings of a workshop and gives an account of the printing material and the history of the individual printing works.

Thereby the BMC serves especially the history of printing, altogether and with the introductions to the volumes also the history of science. Lately the catalogues of individual collections aim at considering the get-up and the special features of the

individual copy, i.e., to inform on the rubrication, book ornamentation, binding and provenances. Consequently, they refer to the readers of a book and furnish material for the history of the book which has been prepared but must be looked for at widely scattered places.

The researcher who wants to use incunabula like manuscripts as sources for his investigations, must look up a great number of catalogues, unless author and text have been registered in the GW yet. With the aim of making access to these sources easier for the researcher the British Library offers the ISTC. The ISTC was prepared on the basis of Frederick R. Goff's 3rd Census (Incunabula in American libraries) with the inclusion of the incunabula of the British Library and the United Kingdom in machine readable form. By the inclusion of the lists of incunabula of individual countries and libraries the ISTC is enlarged, therefore already some 18,000 editions of incunabula are presently recorded. In addition to short descriptions based on modern catalogues, the ISTC offers many bibliographic locations and a great number of locations of copies. The ISTC is to give the researchers a quick survey of the works printed in the 15th century, lists extant copies and refers to catalogues containing further, additional information. Among these references, the GW is also quoted if the incunabula have already been described in it.

Which kind of information not given elsewhere does the researcher find in the GW? To answer this question the aims of the GW must be recalled to mind. The GW is to give a bibliographic description of the works printed in the 15th century with movable types and to serve both the history of printing and the history of science as well as culture. For this reason it describes the incunabula

with methods which suit them. The methods of information on the incunabula as objects of the history of printing are generally known and are applied by every librarian cataloguing incunabula. The methods of information on the incunabula as textual documents are borrowed from the practice of the description of manuscripts and they are applied to the printings of the 15th century in the interest of the scientists, to be exact: at the scientists' request. To summarize in brief the scientists make the following demands on the description of incunabula in the GW:

1. To quote the real author of a text and to separate the genuine from the not genuine works.
2. To unite identical texts handed down under different titles, at one place and to record them under the title which is usual in science.
3. To describe every edition with regard to contents with all individual texts and additions contained in them.

In spite of its name the Union Catalogue of Incunabula is a bibliography which aims at informing on all texts printed in the 15th century with types regardless of the fact that a copy has survived or not. The GW intends to replace the "Repertorium bibliographicum" by Ludwig Hain and the additions by Walter Arthur Copinger and Dietrich Reichling; therefore the alphabetical order of the authors and titles was chosen for the arrangement of the descriptions of the incunabula. Whereas a catalogue can quote author and title, as the edition on hand does, the real author and the actual title for all editions of a given text are relevant to the GW. As heirs of the late Middle Ages the early printers and editors took some texts by mistake for the genuine work of a famous author, and Hain and his successors arranged it

under wrong names. As long as the GW has not been published in print yet, the meritorious and still indispensable works of Hain, Copinger and Reichling must be relied on for the identification of incunabula. Cataloguing incunabula according to Hain and his successors, however, would mean to repeat possible mistakes and errors with regard to author and title. In contrast, the GW tries to take into consideration the results achieved by literary research and to follow the specific level of research. With knowledge progressing the GW must put up with changes: The editions of "Elegantiarum viginti praecepta" (GW 277-309) described under Aegidius Suchtelensis in Volume 1, must be registered anonymously which had to be referred to in Volume 8, column 22; a lampoon entitled "La venuta del re di Francia in Italia e la rotta" registered under "Entrée" (GW 9322) in 1940, has Matteo Fosse (GW 10 232) as its author; the "Antigameratus" (GW 2060) registered in Volume 2, is the work of Frowinus de Cracovia which is pointed out in Volume 9, part 2. Many examples of this kind could be given. They show the difficulty of work encountered by the GW editors, but do not relieve them from the necessity of aiming at the correct registration of the texts printed in the 15th century.

Georgius de Hungaria, a Black Friar of the 2nd half of the 15th century, is the author of the treatise "De moribus condicionibus et nequitia Turcorum" printed anonymously several times in the 15th century. Although already Proctor and BMC registered the text under the author's name, the majority of incunabula catalogues oriented according to Hain 15 673-15 681 have continued to regard the work as anonymous. This Georgius de Hungaria is not identical with a man of research by the same name who wrote the "Arithmetica" (Copinger 3198) printed in 1499. In the 3rd part

of Volume 9 the GW quotes both authors, of course separately, and, as usual, provides biographical notes which are of use to the scientist for all their brevity. Not in the case of those Hungarian authors but in all appropriate cases the GW refers to the scientific activities of the authors as far as they are reflected in incunabula editions. In connection with Galfridus Grammaticus (GW 10 483), e.g., reference is made to the "Aequivoca" and the "Synonyma" of Johannes de Garlandia supplied by Galfridus with commentaries, in the case of Theodorus Gaza, among other things, to his translations of Aristoteles (GW 2350 - 2352, 2452-2453) and Theophrastus (Hain 15 491) and to the additions to the edition of Origines (Hain 12 078).

Authors whose works are numerous are supplemented by the GW with a survey of the opera printed in the 15th century. Under Galenus only two independent editions can be described (GW 10 481 and 10 482), but the evidence of the genuine works and those attributed to Galen in the editions of other authors and the references to commentaries of Galen's writings take almost two columns. This example makes it evident, that the GW serves those scientists quite immediately who would hardly look for Galen's texts under Hippocrates, Nicephorus Bremmydes, Philelphus and other authors. The work "De aquaeductu urbis Romae" by Sextus Julius Frontinus (GW 10 408) has also been printed in GW 7123 (Cleonides) and jointly with Vitruvius' "De architectura" (Copinger 6269); the "Strategemata" of the same author (10 409) were still published in connection with the "Epitoma rei militaris" by Vegetius Renatus (Hain 15 915). These few examples alone show that the GW does information work far beyond the volumes published so far.

The survey of titles concerning the author Johannes Gerson comprises 39 manuscript pages. It separates Gerson's genuine writings from the

works attributed to him definitively by mistake, and separately quotes the texts in cases where Gerson's authorship is doubted. With Gerson's works a distinction is made between texts originally written in French, and others produced in Latin. This survey is supplemented by an equally extensive list of the beginnings of texts (list of incipits) which registers all works of Gerson printed in the 15th century, once again and will prove very useful for the cataloguing of manuscripts in particular.

The GW's surveys of the works of an author are not arranged alike; they are the result of the scientific investigation of the individual editions in the GW editorial office. Among the various works of Robertus Gaguinus a special position is taken by his writings on the Immaculate conceptio Mariae. The one was written in distichs, printed with and without comment and, moreover, published in a revised version under a changed title with marginal notes. The other handles the subject in prose and was published in French and Latin. Finally Gaguin has also written a corresponding festival officium which was added to the printings of the Latin prose text. These complicated circumstances which do not follow from the titles, can be concluded from the survey in the GW at a glance.

The basis for identifying a text and uniting identical texts is the incipit, the actual beginning of the text of a work. With the information on incipit and explicit within the so-called textual description the GW follows the practice of the description of manuscripts and goes beyond Hain who quoted the first words of the printed edition only. By considering incipit and explicit the GW has a reliable method for the correct classification of an edition. The incunabula by the title of "Interpretatio in Summulas

Petri Hispani" registered by Hain, Copinger and some catalogues under Georgius Bruxellensis, must be described under Petrus Hispanus. They do not only contain the commentary of Georgius Bruxellensis but also the "Summule" of Petrus Hispanus and they must be dealt with in connection with the great number of other editions of the Summule commented and augmented by further additions. In comparison, Copinger 2983 quoted by the bibliographer under Hispanus, must be registered under Georgius in the GW, since only the text of the commentary was printed.

A similar case is Hain 7859, Grammatica. The printing does not only contain the commentary "Aurea Grammatica" but also the "Doctrinale" of Alexander de Villa Dei to which it refers. Already in the GW Hain 7859 should have been described under Alexander. In accordance with the incipits Hain 7859 belongs to the group of the commented editions GW 1187 and 1187a; the explicit in Hain 7859, however, does not correspond to the end of the text in GW 1187. In this way the scientist is referred to the necessity of clarifying the relation of Hain 7859 to GW 1187 and of examining the composition of the printed texts.

As part of the description with regard to contents the GW quotes with diplomatic accuracy also verses of dedication, dedications, forewords, commentaries, registers and other additions, with heading or incipit, if existent, in addition to the incipit and explicit of a text, in the textual description of each individual incunable. Part of these additions forms the basis of the subject arrangement of the different editions of a text, and the names of the contributors are cited in the bibliographical note, the short cataloguing description introducing every GW description. With these data of the scientific arrangement of a textual edition gained from the book itself, research is presented with an

extremely rich source material which is both easy to survey and to check. The efforts of the printers and editors towards the presentation of a text are clearly evident.

Literary sources partly not noticed by the scholars, are occasionally hidden in incunabula containing more than one independent work; in any case the GW indicates the contents of such text collections and informs of the incipits of the texts often published anonymously (e.g., GW 9312/10, 9314). In dealing with the editions of the incunable "Canzoni per andare in maschera" (Reichling 1157 and 1158) registered by the GW under Bernardo Giambullari, the texts of the songs added to the carnival songs of Giambullari, must be analyzed carefully. With the reference to Matteo Franco (GW 10 282) the GW will drew attention to poems by Giambullari which have been unknown to literary science up to now.

Also by eliminating "bibliographical ghosts", i.e., the double and multiple descriptions of one and the same edition, the GW renders research a service. The bibliographical registration of the GW guarantees the continuity of incunabula research. With the registration of copies in the libraries of other countries this comprehensive bibliography of incunabula becomes a union catalogue.

Bibliography is one of the fundaments of historical and literary historical sciences. Every catalogue of incunabula which is presently prepared, considers the results of research achieved in the meantime as well as the problems and interests of the scientists. As a whole catalogues of incunabula offer research a broad area of work, each individual one, however, can only offer a section.

In spite of gaps, errors and mistakes in particular the GW is in a position to give a general view of the literary activity in the second half of the 15th century. The literature of incunabula reflects the intellectual work of half a century. Apart from the production of manuscripts still lasting but diminishing, everything "was printed with admirable enthusiasm what to the contemporaries seemed to be venerable and honorable, exemplary and good, original or stimulating and incentive, in a word, what was considered valuable"(R. Galle). By describing the incunabula in the GW this admirable printing activity is rendered easy to survey. By way of comparison the summaries of the GW articles Aesop or Cicero reveal the position an author, a work, an individual edition held in the scientific and cultural life at the end of the 15th century, at the beginning of modern times.

The GW is not in a position to write the scientific and cultural history of this important epoch, but is offers research the relevant material. In this respect it is identical with all lists and catalogues of incunabula. Catalogues of incunabula and, the GW supplement and enrich each other. The GW accepts the results of incunabula cataloguing with gratitude and catalogues of incunabula make use of the GW's detailed descriptions. Frederick R. Goff's 3rd Census of incunabula in American libraries clearly shows the close relation to the GW and its principles. In case of differences with regard to author and title Goff refers to the GW. The registration of the incunabula in Short Title Catalogues practiced in all modern lists would not be justifiable without reference to the volumes of the GW already published and without anticipation of further volumes. ISTC will not make the GW superfluous either. Scientific research needs both this easily accessible finding list with its variety of suggestions

and information and the analysis of the texts with the methods of the GW. Scientists from all over the world ask the GW publishers for information they could not receive from Short Title Catalogues. To give only a few examples from the USA: The GW supported Germanistic research at Harvard University, Cambridge (Massachusetts), moreover, the research of Professor Robert Mathiesen, Committee on Medieval Studies, Brown University, Providence (Rhode Island), and the investigations of Professor J. H. Phillips of the Department of Classics of Tuft University, Medford (Massachusetts). Good relations for the mutual benefit exist between the GW and the Chairman of the Department of Rhetoric, University of California, in Davis.

The present state of work on the GW follows from the examples of this report. In particular the following results were achieved: For Volume 9, Part 2, of the GW the second correction of galley proof was made (Friedrich III. - Gebote, GW 10 361 - 10 576). The manuscript of Part 3 is under preparation (until Gerson inclusively). For the 4th Part the typographic investigations and the preparation of the bibliographic evidence and the location of copies have been completed. 50 per cent of the scientific preparation have been completed. The 5th Part will contain the article Grammatica. The typographic work has already been finished, the location of copies is just being examined, 25 per cent of the scientific preparation have been completed. On this occasion we should like to thank the Joseph Regenstein Library of the University of Chicago for xerographic prints of an incunable described under Grammatica. Miss Susan S. Rugh, Special Collections, had seen to it that we received this working document in the required quality. Material for further Parts of the GW has already been supplied. They were very expensive because of the voluminous

works and the great number of printings of Gregorius and Gratian. We have now started supplying working documents for the article Historia.

Since the German State Library prepares the GW with its own considerable means after all, we ask you to support our endeavours towards a financial contribution to the work on the GW also on this occasion. At the General Conference of IFLA in Montreal in 1982 we suggested the article Horae as a special project. The financial means required for this consist of

1. Costs for the supply of working tools (microfilms),

2. A grant for an expert to be won from abroad,

3. Funds for the required journeys of the specialist.

IFLA has included support of the GW in the Medium-Term Programme 1981-1985. In the Medium-Term Programme of the Section on Rare and Precious Books and Documents it reads under point 3: "To assist in securing funding for the Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke". A Working Group of the Section under the chairmanship of Doctor Richard Julian Roberts, Bodleian Library, Oxford, is to support the GW. The item "To assist in securing funding for the Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke" has again been included in the Medium - Term Programme 1986-1990. Now it is time to secure funding for the provision of the working tools for the article Horae. According to our suggestion of 1982 at least 6.000,-- US $ should be provided for this purpose, namely in 3 annual installments.

We ask you to support this request.

IFLA 51st Session, Chicago 1985
Division of Collections and Services
Section of Rare and Precious Books and Documents

65-RARE-3-E

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORK ON THE REFERENCE BOOK "MUSEUMS OF THE BOOK"

T.I.Kondakova
The Lenin State Library
of the USSR

Moscow, 1985

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As our report delivered at the session of the Standing Committee of the Section on Rare and Precious Books and Documents (ČSSR, Žďar, May, 1984) has already stated, the V.I.Lenin State Library with the assistance of the greatest possible number of participants from various countries is working to compile a reference book entitled "World Museums of the Book" which will be of an international character.

We realized the very first time we tackled the subject that a broad variety of institutions concerned with the book promotion are not uniform, which in its turn brought forward the necessity to specify the concept of "the museum of the book" (the idea was supported by the Section Chairman, Director of the Library of the National Museum in Prague Dr. J.Vrchotka and other participants in the above session).

In our report we suggested the following functional definition of this concept: "museums of the book are research and educational institutions which regard the book as the depository of intellectual values materialized in a certain form, which is created simultaneously in material, intellectual and art spheres and constitutes an integral part of the historical and cultural development. To exhibit the book a museum of the book applies relevant methods and facilities based on the achievements of modern bibliology".

As we proceeded to collect and analyze factual material we were convinced that this was correct especially since many researchers of various countries are of the same opinion: most profound definitions were rendered by Y.R.Willison, Head of the Department of the British Library; R.J.Roberts, Chief Custodian of the Bodlei-

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an Library, Oxford; J.Vrchotka, Director of the Library of the National Museum, Prague; Prof.H.Kunze (GDR) in the articles included in a number of issues of a most interesting collection of scientific works published by our colleagues from the ČSSR.[I] Their definitions are correct in the main thesis which is common for all of them: the book must be defined comprehensively both as an intellectual phenomenon (in a most general form) and material substance (of a thing, object). Actually, only in this case can an exhibition display the book with due regard for all the features of this phenomenon, truly revealing its essence and place in the historical progress of society.

Our theoretical research was carried out not only by summarizing the factual material and analyzing the available literature, but also by exchanging opinions with our correspondents; some of their letters enabled us to understand more profoundly the essence of the concept "the museum of the book", namely the letters of Director General of the State Library, Berlin (GDR) Prof.Dr.F. Krause, Director of the University Library, Medison (USA) Dr.D. Freser, Deputy Director of the German Museum of the Book and Type of the German Library (Leipzig, GDR) Dr.Schlider. The compilers

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[I] Cf.: Willison. The Problems of a National Museum of the Book: the Future of the British Library's Permanent Exhibition.- Sborník Národního muzea v Praze: Acta Musei Nationalis Pragae (Řada C-Literarní historie).- Praga, Sv.XXVII (I982), čis.4, P.I89-I96; Roberts J. The Role of the Bodleian Library as a Museum of the Book.-Op. cit., Sv.XXVII (I982), čis.3, P.I58-I66; Vrchotka J. Vývoj a poslání Muzea knihy ve Žďáře n.Sáz., trvalé expozice Knihovny Národního muzea v Praze.- Op.cit., Sv.XXII (I977), čis.I-3, p.9-25; Kunze H. K funkci Muzeí knihy a jejich vztah ke knihovnám.- Op.cit., p.38-43

are also grateful to all Soviet and foreign colleagues who have answered our inquiries.

Since our work began we have sent about 500 letters and received over I25 replies (i.e. approximately 25 per cent of all the inquiries). At present the data bank has information about I80 institutions.

In October, I984, we made a progress report on the results of the reference book compilation to the participants in the International Conference on "The Book as a Museum Exhibit" (Leipzig, the GDR).

The methods of collecting factual material were rather conventional, but the process of collecting as well as the compilation of the vocabulary turned out to be multi-stage and complex: they are not finished yet. Actually, the second part of the work is carried out simultaneously with clarifying and defining the concept of "the museum of the book".

The reference book is to lay a special emphasis on museums which exhibit the book comprehensively (i.e. according to the common interpretation of the essence of the book museum). Nevertheless we think that the contents of the reference book should by no means constitute only aggregate facts about book museums as such. In fact there are a lot of museums dedicated to paper (papyrus, vellum), bindings, types, formats and other book design elements which frequently merge into the art of the book.

Future readers of this publication will be undoubtedly interested in museums which exhibit written documents and printing as craft and industry branches.

There is a considerable number of museums dedicated to prominent bookmakers (printers - mainly, first printers, inventors of technology and equipment for printing and papermaking, binders, publishers, booksellers, collectors) and to the history of some publishing houses.

The expositions of all the museums mentioned above make up a sort of dispersed parts of the ideal book museum. We consider the principle of dividing the material into subject complexes dealing with the development of individual book elements to be the most effective principle of its arrangement (for instance, the exposition of the Museum of the Book of the V.I.Lenin Library is based on this principle). These complexes belong yet to different museums. Bookmaking technology and memorials to prominent bookmakers are also integral parts of a museum of the book.

In the process of our work we faced another problem: do museums of the press belong to the sphere of the aggregate (or ideal) museum of the book? It seems that they do. In fact, they aim at selecting from the general flow of printed (type) material a part of it on the basis of some bookmaking (typological) principles: purpose, readership they are meant for, which determine their specific features of artistic design, run, frequency of issue, etc. There is another consideration of interest: initially newspapers (and of course magazines) were of the same format as books but with fewer pages. Thus, press museums logically constitute a structural element of the reference book of world book museums. Probably, a press section must be included not only into the reference book but also be part of a book museum itself (cf. the Museum of

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the Book and Type, Leipzig).

The analysis and systematization of the vast factual material accumulated enabled us to draw the following conclusion: each museum which differs from the museums of the first group is not a museum of the book. Nevertheless, the aggregate information about them approximates to that about book museums (as we understand this concept):

MUSEUMS OF THE BOOK		NOT MUSEUMS OF THE BOOK
The Gutenberg Museum (Meinz, FRG) The Museum of the Book (Žďar, ČSSR) The Museum of the Book and Type (Leipzig, GDR) The Museum of the Book, V.I.Lenin State Library of the USSR (Moscow, USSR)	+	Museums of the paper Museums of the type Museums of the binding Museums of the book art Museums of the press Museums of bookprinting Memorial museums
	+	(Museums of literature and museums of other fields of knowledge)
Museums of the book	=	Museums of the book

Thus, it is not only possible but also indispensable that information of the museums of the second group is included in all the editions of the reference book "World Museums of the Book".

The activities of the largest libraries of the world to promote historical and book knowledge by permanent and changeable book exhibitions are certainly close to the subject-matter of the ideal book museum (although it is not enough for a book exhibition to become a museum). Besides, there are a lot of general type mu-

seums in the world which also organize book exhibitions. Therefore, a purely practical question arises: what are the limits of this virtually infinite succession? It may be wrong to consider only national libraries, since we already know excellent examples of such activities undertaken by university, urban and other libraries in various countries of the world. An additional proof to it was provided in the letters by Prof.Dr.F.Krause (GDR), Dr.D.Freser (USA), Dr.T.Brandis (FRG) which furtherly confirmed our preliminary knowledge about the existence of the vast number of such institutions throughout the world.

We believe that the main division should be the principle of permanent display (this is exactly what our colleagues from the National Library of Australia think). Permanent book exhibitions (illustrating both cimelia from institutions' collections and the history of the book on the basis of the most socially outstanding examples), of course, must be included into a special chapter in the reference book.

As for temporary book exhibitions they may be viewed as sections of the ideal book museum extended not in space but in time. Information about them must constitute another special section of the reference book (although the preprinted information about them will inevitably be rather incomplete).

Due to the established concept of the book museum and of the expedient contents of the reference book about book museums, we had to reconsider the principle of material arrangement in this edition: we had to reject the general alphabetic order, offered in the prospectus, of grouping the material by countries and cities (including

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institutions within each entry), since the material collected was not uniform. Instead we have chosen the principle of typological arrangement of information: book museums; museums of book composition elements (type-carriers, bindings, types, formats, and inner book forms, etc.); museums of book art; museums of polygraphic technology (including the written language as a handicraft); press museums; memorial museums. The material within each section will be arranged by countries in an alphabetical (Russian) order.

We introduced a cross-reference system which enabled us to cover the diversity of expositions of many museums. The bulk of information about each museum is included into the section corresponding to the basic topic of its exposition, while cross-references indicate supplementary ones.

Typological arrangement of the main array determined the composition of auxiliary indices:

I) universal alphabetic indices: country-city-institution (on the basis of Russian and Latin alphabets);

2) title indices (on the basis of Russian and Latin alphabets).

Nearly all the sections comprise facts both about individual specialized museums and about similar departments in general-purpose museums. It is acceptable only when a certain topic is not dissolved in the general range of problems, but presents itself separately and in a specialized way.

While considering the question of arranging the information about each institution we also faced some difficulties. As our report of the last year stated, the reference book would comprise rather extensive information, ranging from featuring the methods of the exposition structure through data about working hours to ent-

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rance fees, etc.

Taking into consideration the fact that the main task of this work is to reveal the essence of the concept "the museum of the book", it is more appropriate to begin with substantive, theoretical issues. It should be mentioned here that recent editions aiming at somewhat different purposes feature sometimes quite the opposite approach.[2]

The compilation of the first version (preprinted) of the reference book is the initial stage of our work in this direction. The work to collect the material produced interesting results, but it is necessary to continue building up the data bank and comparing notes (to further this process the text of the reference book will be published both in the Russian and English languages). It will soon enable us to issue a most comprehensive reference book on this subject.

We were extremely satisfied to know that a draft of the new Medium-Term Programme of the IFLA Section on Rare and Precious Books and Documents includes as a separate paragraph a commitment to assist the compilation of the reference book about book museums.

We hope for further cooperation in this work which is essential to develop our mutual effort aimed at establishing and improving book museums and the whole work of book studying and promotion.

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[2] Cf. the rubricator "Handbuch der Museen" (2 Anfl.- München-New-York-Lnd.- P.: K.G.Saur, 1981).

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The Origins of the Chicago Book World

by

Robert Rosenthal
University of Chicago

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SUMMARY OF THE PRESENTATION BY ROBERT ROSENTHAL, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Title: The Origins of the Chicago Book World

IFLA Meeting, Chicago, August 20, 1985.

The general theme of this paper is the movement of books, or how books, especially rare books, are attracted to and become part of a place. From another angle the theme can be stated as an examination of the social, economic, and intellectual factors which draw books to a place and in so doing give the place a part of the past in the form of the printed book, and thus linking the place with different and older cultures.

The place chosen for this study is Chicago during the nineteenth century, a period when the "place" was transformed from a wilderness to a major metropolis, one which rapidly went through the stages of urbanization with great rapidity and notoreity. It was then the midwest and perhaps the most vital city of the world, drawing upon the diversity of its population at the center of the American heartland.

As essentially non-utilitarian objects rare books are important symbols as well as being objects from which useful information can be extracted. This paper will examine some of the forces which first attracted rare books (i.e. the past) to the Chicago community. It will look at representative individuals who committed some part of their lives to the collection and assemblage of these books. It will touch on some of the mechanisms by which information and the availability of these books became known, i.e. the market as well as the bookish milieu which fostered their acquisition. Then a third part of the study will investigate the process of institutionalization of these books and the accompanying philanthropy that helped give the books permanence within the community.

The Origins of the Chicago Book World

Part One: Early Chicago Collectors

Robert Rosenthal
University of Chicago

If one were to attempt to name some Chicago book collectors prior to the first World War, I suspect there would be difficulty going beyond the names of Wrenn, Ayer, and perhaps Ellsworth, Spoor, and Leiter. One might wonder if Walter Newberry and John Crerar were book collectors since they have had great libraries named for them. The names of Chicago's meat packers might be imagined as being among local bibliophiles, recalling the George A. Armour sale of 1923; except that this Armour wasn't in meat. Wrenn's name is perhaps best known because of his celebrated relationship with Thomas J. Wise, a cause celebre that still reverberates along a bibliophilic fault line that stretches across the Atlantic. At the Humanities Research Center of the University of Texas you might incidently learn that the Wrenn collection, acquired in 1917, was the foundation for its expansion to encompass English literature, and possibly be made aware of its link to Chicago. Ayer's name is probably known to anyone interested in the extensive literature relating to the American Indian, or one who happens to be aware of the great resoureces of the Newberry Library.

For those who keep track of such things, Ellsworth's name will ring a bell when considering the provenance of American copies of the Gutenberg Bible. The Ellsworth copy, the first and last to be at home in Chicago, is now known as the Scheide copy and rests in Princeton. The purchase of the Ellsworth collection in 1923 was among Rosenbach's

major coups. Ellsworth, incidently, acquired this copy at the Brayton Ives sale in 1891 for $14,500, an event that created bibliographic rumblings in the local press and gave hope that it would be the crown for a museum of the book to be established in Chicago. Levi Leiter is recalled as Marshall Field's partner and the father-in-law of Lord Curzon, the Indian Viceroy, but for assiduous collectors of books about books, his name lives on in the form of a catalogue of his collection privately printed in 1907. On further thought, Eugene Field's name might come to mind, together with the book collecting high jinks of his cronies, known as the "Saints and Sinners," who congregated at McClurg's bookstore.

All of this suggests some intense but scattered book collecting activity in Chicago in the late nineteenth century, a time of rapid economic expansion and the founding of great local institutions -- the Art Institute, the Crerar and Newberry Libraries, and the University of Chicago. The Caxton Club was founded in 1895 as one further indication of local prosperity and expansiveness in the direction of books. By the turn of the century Chicago had its second and third generation of residents and it might be wondered if book collectors existed among its earlier citizens. If there were any, how important were their collections and what books did the collections contain? How closely did their tastes reflect current fashion and how and where were these tastes satisfied? Could there have been collectors in the city before the Civil War, and the Great Fire of 1871, turning points in the short history of the city? Who were these collectors and what were their origins? Did they all come from the same social and economic class? One might plunge deeper and ask what meaning these

books might have had for their owners. How and where did they house their books. What happened to the books and why?

Whenever a discussion of book collecting begins, the need for definition becomes imminent. The issue is partially put aside here for simplicity's sake by defining collectors as individuals who either called themselves collectors or were publicly recognized as collectors. A search was undertaken for individuals who showed some outward manifestation of collecting -- someone who acquired large numbers of books, was active in the market for rare and old books, used bookplates, donated large numbers of books to an institution, subscribed to bibliophilic journals, and so forth. The early membership rosters of the Caxton Club was a convenient starting point, as were those of the Grolier Club which is eleven years older. The Bibliographical Society of Chicago conducted a survey of local bibliophiles at the turn of the century which was also revealing. Cannon's work on American book collecting was checked as were other accounts of book collecting and book selling, but the pickings were slim. A reading of McKay's compilation of American book auction catalogues yielded some Chicago collectors who sent collections to the block so long as place of origin was mentioned in the auction catalog. Some early general directories of book collectors such as Hedeler's were read, yielding still further names and confirming others.

It became clear from this survey that the membership of the Caxton Club was not only limited to a social and professional elite, but the Club represented only a small segment of local collecting. As numbers mounted, it became apparent that an unexpected amount of book collecting activity had existed. The information in most instances

appeared superficial -- a name, address, and perhaps the number of volumes possessed and subject interests. Occasional information was added from other sources: memorials and reminiscences, booksellers' account books and correspondence, and personal papers and archival collections.

Some four hundred names of collectors have been compiled, collectors who appeared on the scene from practically the beginning of the city through the first decade of the present century. The information on many will remain thin until a comprehensive search can be made of the local census and probate records, as well as a more systematic investigation of other local historical sources. How far this can be extended for all four hundred names remains to be seen.

In the meanwhile, the aim has not been the compilation of lists, however basic they might be, but a lrage scale look at rare book ownership and how local collecting has related to the social, cultural, and economic conditions which are a part of the character and dimension of Chicago. (It seems doubtful that uniform information could ever be retrieved on all the collectors discovered, because of the uneven and informal nature of the documentation left by book collectors and the book trade.)

From an examination of the comprehensive list, four groups of collectors have been identified. It is these four groups of collectors which I would now like to outline and describe some of their principal members as well as the characteristics of each group.

The first group is called the "Pre-Fire Elite," composed of early settlers, largely of New England and New York stock. Most were settled and part of local society by the early 1850s. Many came from rural or semi-rural backgrounds, some acquired training as lawyers

which was to give them strategic access to the money and real estate markets where speculation could be transformed into the quick accumulation of capital. Some, no doubt, arrived with heirloom books, especially after Chicago was linked with the east by railroad in 1852, but equally they arrived with a strong desire to eventually possess books. Among this group is Ezra McCagg, a lawyer who possessed the Shakespeare folio of 1623, the first in Chicago, which later went up in flames. John Young Scammon was another civic leader who was to direct many local institutions; his outstanding collection was based on his Swedenborgian beliefs. Walter Newberry had a library of unknown dimension before he died at sea in 18 . Most probably, it was a general collection and not distinguished by any special interest. The most famous of the group was John A. Rice, a hotelman, who had the distinction of being the only American represented in Bernard Quaritch's dictionary of book collectors.

Edward G. Asay's books, among the finest judged by current fashion, formed the foundation for J. Pierpont Morgan's book collection by way of Theodore Irwin who purchased Asay's collection. But most of the books collected by this group of early settlers were lost in the Great Fire, with the consequence that little tangible remains of their book collecting activity.

One important aspect of this early activity was its apparent effect on some of the collectors as they guided the city's institutions. Scammon, for example, was both a member of the board of trustees and sometime librarian of the "Old University of Chicago," the predecessor of the present institution. He was also a lay member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and kept his intellectual interests alive with similar affiliations, local or national. The same was true of McCagg, who was a member of the original trustees of the

Crerar Library. They were highly cultivated gentlemen who applied their faith and knowledge of books to the institutions which they guided. Another of them, Walter Newberry, left provision for a public library which came to fruition years after his death.

The second group of collectors, called the "Post-Fire Entrepreneurs," resided in a larger, more active city, one whose greatness was beginning to be taken for granted. Their fortunes were made, by and large, after the great fire and based on merchandizing, distribution, and manufacturing and expanded by banking and speculation. These solid citizens worshipped in the fashionable protestant churches of the city and sent their sons east to school which reinforced old ties as well as creating the potential for divided loyalties between Chicago and eastern institutions. They also lived in large houses which were built with a room called the library that called for books and other accoutrements of refinement.

The sources of emotional and intellectual bookish interest varied. Some, like Edward Ayer and George Manierre developed a fervor for books out of a desire to preserve the historical record of a rapidly changing society and at the same time to express their patriotism by the possession of moments of their country's history caught in books and manuscripts. Ayer's commitment to the record of the American Indian was the result of first-hand observations of the depredation of these aborigines which ignited his imagination. The book love of George Allison Armour and John Henry Wrenn took a more tasteful, traditional path that led them to encounters with the center of the London book and literary world. With the guidance of Thomas Wise, both met Edmund Gosse, A. C. Benson, and other literary lions of the London scene. These friendships kept Wrenn and Armour attuned to the

literary gossip as well as the doings of the marketplace. They formed a sophisticated link between Chicago and the outer world of books.

The urbane collecting of Wrenn and Armour seemed to suggest a desire for bibliophilic esteem based, with Wise's tutelage, on association and original condition of the book to be acquired. Scarcity continued tp play its central role but now its perception was beginning to be enlarged and refined by new techniques of bibliographical analysis. The "New Bibliography" also had the effect of developing an appreciation for the process of a book's creation and manufacture. Rushton M. Dorman took another, more old fashioned tact, one that was more typical of contemporary collecting in Chicago during the 1870s and 1880s.

Beginning in 1874, Dorman, a lawyer and amateur scholar, was able to amass a wide ranging collection of 4,000 volumes which placed him among the most important American bibliophiles of the period, a member of that strata of collectors just below the big-time names of Brinley, Hawkins, Brevoort, and some others. It has been Dorman's fate to go unmentioned by Cannon and other sources except for his entry in McKay. Perhaps the most lasting accomplishment of his life was the authorship of a book published by Lippincott in 1881 which reflected his interest in the borderline between religion and anthropology. Its full title is *The origin of primitive supersititions, and their development into the worship of spirits and the doctrine of spiritual agency among the aborgines of America*, a work apparently derived from books in his collection.

The Dorman collection was sold at Leavitt's in 1886, at a three day sale. The catalogue was introduced by Charles Sotheran, the London dealer, and is an epitome of contemporary collecting taste as

well as containing unusual books reflecting a more eclectic taste. There was, of course, the obligatoru Cruikshanks, the extra illustrated volumes ("Staunton's edition of Shakespeare splendidly extra illustrated eith twelve hundred plates of the brightest impressions," among others), Roberts' *Holy Land*, two deluxe editions of *The Sentimental Journey*, and Napoleon's *Egypte* (King Louis Phillipe's copy, no less), Kingsborough's *Mexican Antiquities* (hand painted), fifteen volumes of John Gould's illustrations, and Hall and McKinney's three volumes on the American Indian. All of these were standard fare for the collector with a healthy purse, and one eager to have what contemporary taste considered "highly desirable." But Dorman's predilections went beyond these chestnuts and attempted to include representation of earlier examples of both printing and manuscripts. The collection had some twenty manuscripts, books of hours, missals, etc. mostly of the 15th century and including one called "The Sforza Missal" for which the auction house gave an eight page description. Among the secular manuscripts was a 15th century French maunscript of Boccaccio with ninety-four miniatures elegantly bound by Duru. There was a collection of Indian miniatures of uncertain date, a Sweynheym and Pannartz imprint of 1470, other "Black Letter Books" including Geiler's "Ship of Fools" of 1511 and on to a Shakespeare first folio with some facsimiles and carefully mended leaves. It was a richly diverse and perhaps overblown collection of the strongly acquisitive collector also heavily laced with contemporary deluxe printing, chromolithography, and facsimiles of important early books.

If Dorman's collecting suggests a certain weighty intensity, the circle of local collectors which congregated around Eugene Field and who were memorialized by him in his journalistic and literary writings

were more inclined to be bemused by their own bookish predilections with or without the touch of mockery that Field applied to book collecting. Field's contradictory character has yet to be unravelled and despite his love for books, his attitude toward them remains a mystery. Field prided himself in the acquisition of the arcane and the unusual, books that might titillate his sense of humor and raise the envy of his fellow collectors. His love of the English tongue and his desire to take playful license with it led him to acquire texts that exhibited the language with originality and perhaps a touch of the bizarre.

There is no question that Field, before his untimely death in 1894, was the best known bookman in the city. This was the result of the wide circulation given his "Sharps and Flats" newspaper column, a vehicle for publicizing the adventures of his book collecting cronies. The daily rendezvous in McClurg's bookstore took on its ritual aspects centering around local literary gossip. It was there that George Millard orchestrated the rare book department which became a compelling attraction to book collectors en route across the country and with time on their hands between trains.

Field's own book collecting was never directed toward the monumental books found in a Dorman collection. If some sought refinement in books, Field looked for the exquisite. He was a collector of his contemporaries, books of recent vintage held in high personal esteem. He became a champion of American literary first editions, writing the introduction for Herbert Stone's *First Editions of American Authors* (1893), a guide to collecting and the first publication of Stone & Kimball. His immersion in bookish matters made him a focal point -- a bibliographical catalyst -- for his collector friends, keeping them abreast

not only of book news but the foibles of the great and small. When he spent a year in London in the early 1890s, he would regale his friends back home with descriptions of his dinners with Oscar Wilde, Marie Corelli, Thomas Wise, Beerbohm Tree and would give his views of the local book trade, giving local bibliophiles a sense of being one step removed from London's glamour.

One prominent member of the Field circle, satirized by Field as Friar Gonsol of "The Bibliomaniac's Prayer," was Frank Wakely Gunsaulus, a churchman and educator who was drawn to Chicago from Ohio. Gunsaulus was a gripping speaker who could dramatize the civilizing force of books. He was also an inveterate collector, an amasser of things ranging from antique lace to Japanese sword-guards -- collections which allowed him to hone his taste as well as refine his appreciation of beautiful things. The books he collected followed this path. Among them were incunabula and other early printed books and medieval manuscripts which eventually created the foundation for the rare book collections at the newly founded University of Chicago. Gunsaulus was to play a crucial role in sensitizing the University to the beneficial effects of book collecting and in the process was responsible for pointing collectors in the University's direction.

This group, the post fire entrepreneurs, was the largest of the collecting groups on the Chicago scene during the late 19th century. They were prominent members of a local bourgeoisie which had accumulated sufficient capital from which books might be collected. None were totally consumed by the mania nor could they match the collecting prowess of a Menzies, a Foot, a Hawkins, a Morgan, or an Astor, but they were

a surprisingly knowledgeable and assertive group. Where and how they developed their book knowledge and acquired their books will be considered elsewhere.

The next group of collectors were not so much concerned with possessiveness or bemused by the game aspect of collecting, but systematically acquired books for personal access to their content. The need for rare or old books to be used as sources of inspiration and fact was intimately linked to their professional careers. Here are grouped academics, theologians, architects, some physicians and lawyers, and museum curators, whose drive to possess rare books is governed by utilitarian and pragmatic impulses. While they shared a veneration of the book as object, something to be handled, possessed and even loved, they stood apart from the rampant self-indulgence symptomatic of bibliomania. Typical of this group are Nicholas Senn, a physician and surgeon; John M. Manly, a literary scholar; Daniel Burnham, an architect; Julius Rosenwald, a lawyer; and Bertold Laufer, a sinologist and curator at the local natural history musuem. The careers of these men converged on Chicago in the 1890s. Manly, for example, came fresh from a Harvard doctorate to begin his long tenure at the University of Chicago. Senn arrived in Chicago at mid-career, moving his huge collection of books to Chicago from Milwaukee when he took the position of professor of surgery at Chicago's College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Manly acquired books when he travelled in Europe with two collections in mind, his own and the University's. His personal collecting was designed to complement the University Library's ability to acquire rare books. At the turn of the century, the University was striving to systematically acquire the transactions of learned

societies, journals, and monographic studies for its young library. Rare books had yet to emerge as a distinct aspect of its collecting. Manly, on his own, would collect the occasional renaissance Italian drama and other Italian literary and historical sources and English medieval and renaissance literature, and Chaucer in particular. There was only a remote chance these books were in the University Library or elsewhere in the city. In later years Manly was an influential advocate for the University's efforts to enrich its holdings of rare books and manuscripts, and with his death his collection passed to the University Library.

Nicholas Senn was a prolific observer and participant in all aspects of medicine, a man thoroughly engaged with his profession, present and past. A key to his collecting were his extensive travels as a member of medical delegations or as the recipient of honors bestowed by foreign colleagues. By the time of his death in 1908, he had accumulated 10,689 volumes and 14,501 pamphlets, the largest assemblage of medical literature in the city. The collection spread across much of 19th century medicine and backward in time to some fifteen medical incunabula. His avidity for books became such that Senn fell into the habit of acquiring collections, at least portions of the libraries of some illustrious predecessors. In this way he acquired portions of the collections of the libraries of Emil Dubois-Reymond, Helmholz, and Virchow. But it was the library of Wilhelm Baum, professor of surgery at Gottingen that contained many of the older, rare books which marked Senn's collection. It was a cache which Senn succeeded in wresting from the Royal Library of Berlin in 1886 following Baum's death, when the German library insisted on

limiting its interest to the rare books while Senn was willing to take the collection whole. The path that Senn's books took once given to the public illustrates the evolution of institutional accomodation to rare books within the city, especially for science and medical books. In 1893, Senn deposited his collection at the Newberry Library and continued to add to it until his death. In 1907 it was transferred to the Crerar Library and is now part of the Crerar Rare Book Collection of the University of Chicago Library. An exhibition at the Crerar Library of fifteenth and sixteenth century medical books from the Senn Collection in 1907 was probably the first major exhibition of its kind in Chicago and probably west of the Alleghenies; it signaled the entry of the Crerar as a potent institutional collector in the history of medicine.

The collecting of Manly and Senn had a strong didactic thread: books serving as a source of needed information as well as a historical link to serious professional concerns. This collecting was beyond -- one might say in advance -- of "high" bibliophilic fashion although they shared the committed bibliophile's deep affection for the printed word. Book collectors such as Manly and Senn had the ability to balance application of content with reverence for the object.

There is now a need to treat one further group of collectors who are not comfortably placed in the preceding categories. They originate in no particular social strata or group and are difficult to define except on their own individual terms. They reflect, occasionally in extreme, some of the intense mania associated with book collecting. Members of this group were by and large part of a bibliographical fringe which sought to express certain deeply held beliefs and values through book collecting. They held little in common except collecting and are

presented as a melange of "Ethnics, Autodidacts, and Eccentrics."

William James Onahan, for example, was an Irishman deeply committed to the inseparableness of his faith and the history of the Irish people. He transformed this into a collection of 8,000 volumes reputed to be the finest relating to Irish affairs in the country. Onahan had migrated to Chicago before the Civil War and was active in local politics and cultural affairs, especially those devoted to his fellow countrymen. He was a leader of the Irish Catholic Colonization Society, a member of the public library board, an organizer of various Catholic congresses, and so on through an active public life. Loyalties to his ethinc group and religion were kept strong through his books. As one memorialist remarked, Onahan "had been true to the memories of his youth and in his house of books the dear green color shone pre-eminent."

Onahan's collection became an outpost of Irish culture in Chicago. It contained facsimiles of Irish manuscripts and documents, editions of speeches of the Irish patriots, original letters, histories, volumes of Irish minstrelsy and literature, which were open to those who shared Onahan's commitment and love of Ireland. Onahan's concern for books went beyond his own desire and he urged others in the Irish community to follow his example:

> . . . Surely in these days of cheap literature the humblest home ought to boast a library -- at least it can be provided with a selection of standard works. Not show books, not so-called "Subscription works" against the folly of which I warn you. Don't buy those big Bibles, and those unwieldy Lives of the Saints and the Blessed Virgin that nobody ever reads and when once acquired, as some innocent people seem to imagine, that they have acquitted themselves of their full duty to Catholic authors and Catholic literature.

In stark contrast to Onahan's Irish gregariousness, the reclusiveness of Walter Harding suggests two counter views of collecting, yet both were deeply committed to extracting information from books. Harding now shares an honored place with Thomas Bodley, Duke Humphrey, Andrew Mellon, Donald Hyde and others in one of the world's great temples to the book. As a youth on Chicago's west side, Harding was touched with a vision traceable to his origins in the British Isles. It was then that he first became beguiled by the popular English songs of the 1860s sung by his father, a brick layer. As he entered young manhood he sought to learn more of early English songs and when cross examined by the head librarian of the Chicago Public Library about his repeated use of the Ballad Society's reprint of the Roxburghe Ballads he was not only embarrassed but was determined to acquire his own copy of the reprint. From that incident onward, Harding, who lived to a ripe old age, never held librarians in high esteem. The purchase of the Ballad Society reprint was the start of one of the most significant collections amassed by a Chicagoan.

Harding, who supported his collecting by playing the piano in local music halls and bordellos, it is said, soon learned of the London book trade, particularly the possibilities offered by Pickering & Chatto and Percy Dobell. He began with the acquisition of songsters and street ballads from the library of W. W. Robinson of Oxford which had been sold in 1906. Harding was a shrewd, thoughtful book collector, one willing to stay perpetually in debt in order to acquire desired books. He stated his collecting principles this way: ". . . I broadened my interests to include all books that contained songs. This permitted me to include plays, ballad operas, pantomimes, librettos, jest-books,

and similar material. There were also the poetical miscellanies, with songs as part of the contents, and the lesser known poets. I avoided both by choice and necessity the dramatists whose plays had appeared in collected editions and also poets who had attained prominence; they could be obtained in collected editions and the originals were too expensive." The absence of reliable guides to the literature gave him "the pleasure of doing one's own research and plotting one's own course."

Harding remained a remote figure on the Chicago book scene, better known to the foreign antiquarian book trade from whom he also accumulated an extensive collection of dealer catalogues. A remote, handsome figure, he would occasionally deign to show his books to a scholar who might possibly understand and appreciate the scope and purpose of his library. Eventually he filled his house with 40,000 volumes which now compose one of the great treasures of the Bodleian Library.

The solitary figure of Walter Harding is that of a pioneer book collector who followed his passion into new fields of collecting. He not only preserved scarce material that might have been lost but by a devotion to learning gave its ephemeral character a coherence and form it had not had. The fact that his books recrossed the Atlantic to become part of the Bodleian Library is not without irony. As he became increasingly aware of his own mortality he understood the need for his books to have a permanent home, one set within the historical and literary traditions from which his beloved songs arose. The choice was between the British Museum and the Bodley. Apparently he never seriously considered a Chicago library or any other in the United States.

If Charles F. Gunther had had his way visitors to Chicago today might see an Egyptian pyramid looming in the city sky. To the dismay of Philadelphians, Independence Hall might also have been placed along Lake Michigan's shore. Gunther was a mover, a grand-mover, who recognized the difference between big and small plans. His greatest success with an otherwise immovable object occurred in 1889 when he had Libby Prison, of Civil War infamy, dismantled in Richmond, Virginia, six hundred thousand bricks and other pieces of it. Some 132 twenty-ton freight cars were needed to move the structure to the south side of the Chicago Loop where it was resurrected as a museum for Gunther's extensive collection of relics, books and manuscripts.

Eugene Field dubbed Gunther "the Curio King of Candydom" for good reason. The stately looking Gunther could not resist a grand gesture that would attract patrons to his landmark confectionary shop on State Street or to his museum. He combined historical objects with a shrewd grasp of the informative, the patriotic, and an underlying curiosity value. He applied this skill at a time when Chicago's own sense of history had hardly taken shape and the documentation of history was part hucksterism and show business.

Gunther, an immigrant from southern Germany, moved with his family across the eastern United States in stages, finally settling in rural Illinois. Without much formal education, he acquired a large stock of worldly experience after a series of jobs across Illinois and into the south. He worked in banks, was in the southern ice trade, developed experience in pharmacy, held a position as purser on a Confederate river boat during the Civil War, and ultimately found his metier as a confectioner. He claimed to have given the American public the caramel. His house of confections, known widely and simply as "Gunther's," grew into a large

wholesale as well as retail business, and in later life he expanded into real estate. As he became a public figure he began to hold public office including alderman for the bluestocking neighborhood along Prairie Avenue.

Gunther was acutely aware of the lure of history. Initially, he placed his curios and relics on public view in rooms above his confectionary shop. The Civil War, still vivid in the public mind, was memorialized with guns, uniforms, flags, documents, paintings, etc. and close by there would be an Egyptian mummy, purportedly that of the Pharoah's daughter who discovered Moses among the bulrushes. As the museum expanded into the reconstructed Libby Prison the onlooker could see the beam from which the Lincoln assassins were hanged, a bloody towel taken from beneath Lincoln's head, or a cast of the hoof of the horse upon which Booth made his escape. A star attraction was the skin of the serpent that tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden. There was a bit of serpent oil in Gunther and no denying his statement that "Old Libby will be a magnificent curiosity shop before we get through with it."

Amid a multitude of spellbinding attractions there were books and manuscripts as if to deflect the sensationalism of the relics. Gunther was an alert collector of books and manuscripts who became familiar with the international rare book market through his travels. American history was a natural centerpiece but there were also collections devoted to Shakespeare, Mexico, Bibles, atlases, Oriental manuscripts, a range that encompassed the sublime to the exotic. He had, for example, a copy of Waldseemuller's *Cosmographiae* (1507), the Tyndale as well as the first German Bible, the first edition of Molino's *Diccionario Mexicano*, and so on. There were also books on theology, medicine, and philosophy,

fore-edge paintings, almanacs, and on and on. Among his manuscripts were records of the American Fur Trade Company, letters of various Popes, letters and documents of Washington (his will and first U.S. patent signed by him), Lincoln and other national leaders, early photographs, and cuneiform tablets.

Edward Ayer, a more controlled collector, passed bibliophilic judgement by saying of Gunther that he "had some good things, and a good many that were not." The mass of "stuff" left little to suggest discernment and refinement but his zeal and the size of his purse allowed considerable latitude for his historical imagination. Following his death in 1920, a long drawn out process of dispersal began. It was a confused matter given the bulk and uncertain value of the collection. The Chicago Historical Society played a central role, becoming the depository for some of the most valuable relics, manuscripts, and books. There was a sale of material beyond the Society's scope at the galleries of the American Art Association in 1926. Earlier, in 1921, Henry Huntington had acquired seventy-one incunabula and six atlases from the Gunther estate and later sent Henry Bliss, his librarian, to make a further selection. Bliss sent to California an additional 2,000 books, including all the Bibles and early Mexican imprints. Gunther's seemingly indiscriminate cache of "collectibles" was ultimately transformed by other collectors as they acquired and assimilated the Gunther books. Because he did not conform to the standard tenets of book collecting, he was seen as an abberation, hardly associated with Wrenn's cool sensitivity or the deep fires which ignited Walter Harding's passion. It might be said of Gunther that he was a book collector with a broad public vision that went beyond the things he accumulated.

When the Trustees of the Newberry Library were debating the location of that library, Gunther was asked to make a statement about the proposed sites. The choice was between the Library's present location and a location in Lincoln Park advocated by Gunther and others. His vision of books, and rare books in particular, is summarized in the following testimony:

> . . . you are not limited there [in Lincoln Park], and you are not surrounded by buildings. Your books are not affected by the gases of a dense city which have a great effect on books. It is a question of time, not fifty, but five hundred years possibly; we ought to have in this library a grand hall where we can put under glass a certain quantity of books; literary curiosities and historical relics that will be of the most interesting character. In the British Museum there are vast quantities of manuscripts, etc. kept in view under glass. A library like that with a grand hall, with a number of books and relics we may acquire will always be interesting to the masses, as well as scholars. The primary object of a library is to educate and if we can educate people by seeing things, that goes a long way. I possess enough of these things I think to cover two full acres myself, of manuscripts, historical papers, etc. and have a great many things which if I should place them anywhere would be of interest to the masses as well as scholars.

The era of which I have spoken came to an end just before the first world war. By then the balance of supply and demand had shifted and new forces were entering the market widening the flow of books across the Atlantic. The changes in book collecting taste began to affect larger numbers of collectors and the books they would collect. For Chicago, the year 1911 was a fateful one. The deaths in that year of John Henry Wrenn and Owen Aldis, whose collection was to be the keystone of Yale's collection of American literature, marked the increasing tendency of Chicago collections to be dispersed in a larger field. As if to counter this, in the same year Edward Ayer made the fateful decision of making the Newberry Library the permanent repository for his collection, the first major collection to remain in the city of its origin. At the same time, the University of Chicago, twenty years after its founding, was about to get its first library building, the Harper Memorial Library, which affirmed, through its architecture and facilities, the University's commitment to the printed past. 1911 also saw the great dispersal of books and manuscripts at the Hoe sale. Walter Hill led the Chicago assault on that great mass of rare books. He was not without success, but Hill's efforts amounted to a small part of the action. Chicago, however, seemed content that it was on its way to achieving a richness and diversity in its rare book collections and perhaps wondering how many rare books are enough.

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Section: Rare and Precious Books and Documents

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The Universal Availability of Publications Regarding Rare and Precious Books and Documents: Completion of the Czech and Slovak Retrospective National Bibliography 1501 - 1800 /Knihopis/

by PhDr. Jaroslav VRCHOTKA, CSc
Director, National Museum Library
Prague, Czechoslovakia

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Jaroslav Vrchotka

The Universal Availability of Publications Regarding Rare and Precious Books and Documents: the Completion of the Czech and Slovak Retrospektive National Bibliography 1501 - 1800.

One of the most important part of the Czechoslovak National retrospective bibliography is "Knihopis českých a slovenských tisků od doby nejstarší do konce XVIII. století". (Bibliography of Czech and Slovak Printed Books from Oldest Times to the End of the 18th Century), which started at the half of the twentieth of this century. This immense bibliographic work was mainly influenced by the "Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke", which started its publishing in Berlin at that time.

The founder of "Knihopis" was Zdeněk Václav Tobolka, the first professor of bibliography at the Charles' University in Prague and an outstanding representative of the Czechoslovak librarianship at that time. Tobolka editad yet 1910 a bibliography of Czech incunabula under the title "Český slovník bibliografický (i.e. Czech Bibliographical Dictionary) , which proved, first of all to its author, that bibliographies of such kind are not able to be prepared by one man, but need a team-work and cooperation of many specialists from institutions which preserve and collect such books and documents. Of Tobolka's own accord, there was formed a "Committee for Cataloguing Incunabula" by the Ministry of Education on 23. September 1923.

Members of the Commitee were most important and known specialists from the largest libraries headed by Z. V. Tobolka The coreprogramme of the Committee was to promote a union

catalogue of incunabula printed in Czech language, of incunabula with provenience from the territory of Czechoslovakia at that time and of all incunabula being in Czechoslovakia.

In 1924 Z. V. Tobolka caused the extension of the national retrospective bibliography into larger chronological and topical dimmensions. Instead of the Committee for cataloguing incunabula, there were nominated by Ministry of education a new "Committee on bibliography of Czech and Slovak Printed Books to the end of the 18th century". It was carried out in honour of the 150th birthday of the founder of the Czech national bibliography Josef Jungmann, the author of the "History of Czech Literature" edited in 1825. To this anniversary Z. V. Tobolka published a paper in Časopis československých knihovníků (i.e. Journal of Czechoslovak Librarians), vol. II, 1923, p. 217 - 219), where he appreciated the importance of Jungmann's book in the history of the Czech bibliography and announced the programme of a complete retrospective national bibliography of Czech and Slovak literature from the oldest time up the end of 1800. The members were again outstanding bibliographers and specialists from big libraries with rich collections of old printed books.

The Committee concentrated its activity first of all to the bibliography of Czech incunabula and in 1925 it published volume I of "Knihopis československých tisků od doby nejstarší až do konce XVIII. století (i.e. Bibliography of Czechoslovak Printed Books from Oldest Times up to the End of the 18th Century). The work known mostly under the title "Knihopis" (i.e. Bibliography) is sometimes called among Czech specialists "New Jungmann" in honour of the Czech arch-bibliographer. The term was just introduced by Z. V. Tobolka who in the mentioned paper justified the nead of a "New Jungmann", a more accomplished Czech national bibliography was in comparsion to Jungmann's bibliography closer.

The upper chronological limit was changed from 1846 to 1800, there were included only printed books, not manuscripts. The bibliography had to comprise all printed Czech book in Czechoslovak or in libraries abroad, not only in official state libraries, but also in private, church or school libraries. It had to note all informations about lost and missed books.

First of all incunabula had to be catalogued than all other printed books, beginning with books in the Public and University Library in Prague, the biggest and most important one in Czechoslovakia. The list had to be then sent to other libraries in order to check their own copies and to add not listed items. Through questionaries there we contacted libraries abroad in order to find out files of Czech and Slovak printed books.

The first result of the activity of the Committee was the first part of "Knihopis", published in March 1925, two volumes a bibliography of Czech incunabula, printed in Czech language. The first volume contained the description, the second 12 tables of facsimilied pages.

The original title of the publications is:

Knihopis československých tisků od doby nejstarší až do konce XVIII. století. Vydala Komise pro knihopisný soupis československých tisků až do konce XVIII. století. Díl I. Prvotisky (do r. 1500). Text. V Praze 1925.

Díl I. Prvotisky (do r. 1500). Tabule. V Praze 1925.

The volumes were published on the some day as the National library was proclaimed as a special department of the Public and University Library Prague and with a programme to collect and preserve all manuscripts and printed material written or printed in Czechoslovakia and all those relating to this land. The National Library had to catalogue them and to publish a printed

national bibliography. At the some time there was opened an exhibition of incunabula under the the title "Printed Books of the XV. century" at the National Museum Prague presenting all incunabula printed on the territory of Bohemia, those printed by Czech printers abroad and those relating by its contents to Bohemia.

The exhibition was ment as one of the first action of the Czech National Library and presented in fact in originals incunabula described in the first volume of "Knihopis".

The textual volume brought a short description of the activity of the "Committee for Bibliographic Description" and informed about the periodisation of the history of Czech printing. The Descriptive method of the Committee of the Union Catalogue of Incunabula in Berlin was accepted and approved, the Number and Condition of Czech incunabula was described, their literary and typological value was given. Special attention was directed to the authors, printers and editors of the Czech incunabula. A complete bibliographical description of 31 incunabula followed, with complete indexes - the chronological, the title-, subject-, printers´ and personal ones. The second Volume contained 12 tables in fascimile with the complete alphabet of used letters according to the work by A. Schramm.

After completion of the first volume the Committee started a revision of files of important Czechoslovak libraries relating to books published between 1501 - 1800. The result of this activity were the following parts of Volume II. of "Knihopis".

The first part of this volume was published in 1939 and contained letter A, additions to volume I and 34 tables. Each bibliographical entry gives not only an exact textual description, but as well in bibliographical notes historical, typological and

other informations, bibliographical data and a list of all preserved copies with library shelfmarks. It mentions known and unknown entries and contains a number of indexes, a chronological, title-, personal and subject-index, abbreviations and a list of libraries and of other owners.

The second part of Volume II of "Knihopis" was published in 1941, contained lettres B, C and Č. The Committee for Bibliographical Description changed its method and published, starting with this volumes, indexes only to the present volume of "Knihopis" and decided to add complete indexes untill the end of the complete work.

The third part of volume II was not published untill the end the second world war in 1946. The editor informed that no indexes were to be added to single volumes in order to put forward the publishing and to lower the price of the complete publication, which was in fact completed in manuscript so that complete indexes of the whole publication were more useful for research. The additional parts followed then continuously in these terms:

part IV	(letters	K - L)	in 1948
V	(	M - O)	in 1950
VI	(	P - Píseň)	in 1956
VII	(	Píseň - Ř)	in 1961
VIII	(	S - V)	in 1963
IX	(	W - Ž)	in 1967

From 1948 the editorship was taken over by Dr. František Horák, the old collaborator of Z. V. Tobolka and with his name there is connected the continuation in publishing. The Committee of Bibliographical Description was dissolved and the editorship was placed to the National Library Prague. In 1953 F. Horák

became Director of the new founded Fundamental Library of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and this library was the seat of the editor of "Knihopis" till 1967, when F. Horák returned to the State Library Prague. F. Horák continued to prepare the final parts of the "Knihopis" that should contain first of all the so called "Numeral Additions", i. e. additions to all published volumes and numbered entries as an supplement of part IX of "Knihopis". Afterwards it was planned to publish "Alphabetical Additions", i. e. bibliographic descriptions of books not yet mentioned by "Knihopis" and "General Indexes" as the final part of the complete work.

The completion of all these planned activities could not be finished by F. Horák who suddenly died on February 18, 1983.

The State Library took over the important task to finish the publishing of "Knihopis". There was made a profound revision of the material prepared in manuscript and a committee of specialists was nominated from the most important libraries the collaboration of whose was meant necessary for a succesful completion of the work. On April 1, 1984 a new editor was nominated who gave a new project to the work.

It is planned to publish first of all "Numeral Additions", i.e. additions to the numbered entries of the published parts of "Knihopis". Thenafter there will be published "General Indexes" to all published parts of "Knihopis". After the completion of all these parts it will be continued to prepare the so called "Alphabetical Additions", i.e. new descriptions of not yet described entries. It will be necessary to carry out a new revision of the files of printed books in Czechoslovak libraries because it is supposed that many changes in ownership has taken place during the last decades.

The editor prepared new rules for "General Indexes" which were approved and completed by the specialists. He prepared a questionaire to all important libraries in order to find out all copies of known and unknown copies, to register them for "Alphabetical Additions". Personal contacts were established with specialists of important libraries and revisions of library files were started.

A very important task is to ensure the publishing at the Publishing House of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences "Academia" in Prague in order to secure the continuity of print, unique graphic design and the original size previous parts.

A valuable additions to the activity of the new editor will be the planned journal "Notes on Knihopis", that will bring papers on the main problems of bibliographic description.

There have been made all necessary suppositions to complete this immense and useful bibliographic work that will give a perfect survey of all printed books from the introduction of printing in the XV century up to 1800, in Czech and Slovak languages. It will be an inevitable means for bibliographers, literary historians and specialists of many other research-branches. As any other bibliography, "Knihopis" exceeded the borders of its own land and gained a great international importance. Its completion will be a valuable addition to one of the core-programmes of IFLA - UAP, i.e. Universal Availability of Publications, having, among other aims, an importance in exchange of informations for understanding and friendship among nations and will be a precious contribution to friendship and peace in the world.

J.Vrchotka /Czechoslovakia/ The Universal Availability of Publications Regarding Rare and Precious Books and Documents: Completion of the Czech and Slovak Retrospective National Bibliography 1501 - 1800 /Knihopis/

One of the most important part of the Czech and Slovak national retrospective bibliography is the so called "Knihopis", i.e. Bibliography of Czech and Slovak Printed Books from the Oldest Times up to 1800. There have been published two volumes. Volume I contains in two parts the bibliography of Czech incunables and Volume II in 9 parts the bibliography of Czech and Slovak ~~Printed~~ Books printed from 1501 to 1800. All the parts were published from 1925 to 1967 but the work has not yet been finished. The completion of this immense bibliographic publication is a present task of the State Library in Prague, in cooperation with other Czechoslovak libraries. Additions and general indexes are to be published as soon as possible.

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The Rationale of a Rare Books Directory

The West German Handbuch der historischen Buchbestände

by

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Münster, West Germany

Keyword:
Rare Books Directory

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The Rationale of a Rare Books Directory

The West German Handbuch der historischen Buchbestände

Bernhard Fabian

I

Among the tools designed to aid the research scholar in the exploration of source material the 'rare books directory' is a newcomer. A Directory of Rare Book and Special Collections in the United Kingdom & the Republic of Ireland, edited by Moelwyn I. Williams for the Rare Books Group of the Library Association and published only this year, is the first full-scale work of this type. It appeared almost simultaneously with Rare Books, 1983-84: Trends, Collections, Sources, edited by Alice D. Schreyer (1984), the first of a projected series of survey volumes, a substantial portion of which also consists of a directory of rare book and manuscript libraries. Other 'directories' -- of varied scope and intention -- are reported as being in progress, so that within the next few years the 'rare books directory' is likely to establish itself as a reference work in its own right.

The rationale of the 'rare books directory' as a working tool both for the librarian and the scholar has not yet been stated. Nor has its possible function as a work of reference (which is essentially, as F. W. Bateson said in his preface to the original Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature, "a machine for answering questions") been discussed in detail. Mr. Williams is very brief about the purpose of his directory: "The basic aim ...is to bring to the notice of scholars and researchers the location of rare book collections... and to provide such information about their nature, size and importance as will enable them to assess whether or not further investigation is likely to be to their benefit." He adds that it is "not possible to offer a generally acceptable definition of 'rare'" but that in this case the term should be taken as signifying "all printed matter before 1851". The American directory is even more pragmatic in its approach; it presupposes, perhaps quite rightly, a far-reaching consensus among those moving in the rare books field about the use of a 'directory'.

The apparent paucity of comment is easily explained. The point of departure for the rare books directory is obviously the general library direc-

tory, which has been in existence for decades as a basic reference work serving the librarian as well as the scholarly user of libraries. The regular features of the library directory are firmly established, so that they are taken for granted and not commented upon; and they are indeed too well known to be repeated here. But it should be noted that more recently these directories have tended to become more detailed in the information they supply about special or rare material held in libraries. In addition to the customary administrative information, most of the more recent directories supply basic facts about the size and nature of individual collections. A further stage in this development is the special library or special collections directory, which brings together slightly fuller accounts of resources deemed to be of particular interest to researchers. The repertory of Special Collections in German Libraries compiled by Walther Gebhardt (1977) may serve as an example.

Against this background the 'rare books directory' may easily give the impression of conforming to an established pattern and therefore merely providing a more comprehensive version of the general library directory. In taking the individual collection as its 'unit' and in giving a description of this unit from the rare books point of view the 'rare books directory' appears to be different in degree, but not in kind, from the customary general directory. And the question can arise whether it will serve a real purpose apart from drawing attention to the existence of a number of larger and smaller collections of 'rare' books, however defined.

In fact, the 'rare books directory', as it is about to emerge, is not a work which can be placed side by side with existing library directories. Despite its obvious links with the traditional directories, it should be seen as a new type of reference work, which is based on different assumptions and principles from those governing both the conventional guide to the individual library and the conventional directory covering a larger number of collections. It is a 'machine' designed to answer questions which cannot be answered in the same way by other works, and it may turn out to be a work which suggests and provokes new questions about the history of books and of libraries.

II

What kind of work the 'rare books directory' is or should be can perhaps best be understood when it is realized that it serves a variety of different purposes and can respond to demands which at first sight appear to be unrelated to each other. I want to draw attention here to only two.

The first is the obvious one for detailed information about 'rare' or 'early' books -- a term which may cover material printed before 1850 or even before 1900. As is well known, there is a considerable gap between the ideal of the "universal availability of publications" when applied retrospectively and the means of satisfying requests (in many cases even modest requests) for historical material. The reason is that there is simply not enough information available about the location of such material.

It is true that in recent years great efforts have been made to document retrospectively the book production of individual countries within certain periods. Thus, to mention but two examples, English books of the eighteenth century, so far as they are preserved in the British Library and other major libraries, have been catalogued in a machine-readable form which is bound to set new standards for any kind of retrospective cataloguing. In Germany a conventional catalogue of sixteenth-century German imprints preserved in the Bavarian State Library and in the Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel, is being issued as the first contribution towards a satisfactory retrospective national bibliography. In addition, numerous catalogues of individual libraries have been published throughout the world. Some are new compilations; the majority, however, consists of reproductions in book form or in microform of previously existing card catalogues. The obvious example is, of course, the National Union Catalog of pre-1956 Imprints.

However much has been accomplished (and the research scholar has every reason to be grateful for the catalogues which have been put at his disposal), the general feeling is that more remains to be done. With the advancement of retrospective cataloguing its limits become visible, and the vision of an international union catalogue of pre-1850 or pre-1900 imprints (which must be regarded as the conditio sine qua non of the "universal availabil-

ity" of historical material) inevitably recedes. The smaller task of compiling national union catalogues proves a daunting one in practically all countries with a long history of printing, no matter how far the compilation of retrospective national bibliographies has progressed. Books survive in much larger quantities than any other artefacts of the past, and the number and variety of pertinent collections is enormous.

There appears to be a growing awareness that despite all efforts retrospective cataloguing will not in the foreseeable future reach a point at which, generally speaking, the resources potentially available to the researcher can actually be located through modern catalogues conventional or machine-readable. Many larger collections of older or 'rare' books are inadequately catalogued even by modest standards, and the situation of the average smaller collection is too well known to need comment here. Considering the size of the task of recataloguing the historical collections in most countries and considering the limited financial and other means that will at best be available for some time to come, it seems reasonable to envisage an intermediate stage between the actual and the ideal and to devise a tool which makes rare book collections in general more accessible than many of them have hitherto been, at a fraction of the time and money which recataloguing would require.

If the 'rare books directory' is seen as precisely this tool, what it should offer is not a substitute for a catalogue (which would per se be impossible) but a descriptive survey of the individual collection, which is inclusive enough to furnish a variety of inquirers with the information they need for their purposes. Such a survey should not only identify the general nature of a collection but also bring out its specific features. It should, in other words, be both comprehensive and detailed, so that it answers questions not about specific titles but about relatively small 'units' of material within the larger 'unit' of the collection as a whole.

In view of the general situation in the rare books field, it seems likely that this kind of descriptive survey provided by the directory will remain our major, if not our only guide, to a considerable number of smaller collections. In some cases the directory could lead on to the compilation of a proper catalogue. From the library point of view it may indeed be re-

garded as one of tasks of a rare books directory to single out those col-lections which should be given priority in cataloguing or recataloguing. But in many others the survey will have to suffice, and this imposes on the editors and compilers of rare books directories the duty to refine the concept of their work by anticipating as many as they can of the possible uses to which it will be put by librarians and research scholars.

However, the function of the rare books directory should not only be seen as an ersatz function in all cases where catalogues are inadequate or non-existent. Catalogue and directory can, and indeed do, complement each other, and the reciprocity between them should be noted. There can be no question that in the preparation of a descriptive survey an alphabetical catalogue or a subject catalogue is of invaluable help. Conversely, the descriptive survey reveals the nature of the collection, its constituent elements and its peculiar structure in a different manner from the catalogue. By providing a synopsis of the collection it supplies information which cannot be obtained even from the most sophisticated catalogue. It adds a dimension which enhances the usefulness of the catalogue and opens up new approaches. Thus, as the directory cannot be regarded as a proper substitute for the catalogue, so the catalogue does not invalidate the directory: the directory retains its value independent of the catalogue.

The other demand to which the rare books directory can respond is one of a predominantly scholarly nature. It must be seen in connection with the expansion of the History of the Book as a new area of research which is inherently international and interdisciplinary. Though not, or not yet, a fully mapped-out field, the History of the Book cuts across many boundaries and reaches beyond the traditionally book-oriented sphere into the domains of the historian, the literary historian and others.

In addition to focussing attention on the book itself as a medium of communication and, accordingly, on the library as a social and cultural institution, the History of the Book has stimulated a variety of new interests in the fields of literary, cultural and intellectual history. In particular, it has given rise to a new concern with the physical basis of the 'movement of ideas'. Traditionally this movement -- from author to author, from country to country, from one field of knowledge to another -- has been

studied as it were in vacuo. The fact that a movement had occured, that ideas had been taken over, that they had 'spread' was stated and frequently analysed with subtlety. But little or no attention was paid to the fact that, as a rule, this movement had a material basis in the movement of books from one place to another. Ideas were simply assumed to have been 'in the air', though they were -- at least until the beginning of the electronic age -- normally transmitted through books.

With this discovery or, at least in some cases, rediscovery of the book as a carrier of ideas both the book itself as a physical object and the library as a repository of books assume a new significance. Recent studies of the ways in which books have been shaped for their public role or libraries have been used for specific purposes demonstrate the need for new methods of assembling and preparing the relevant source material. The 'positivistic' approach which has been characteristic of much of the work in the past will have to be replaced by other approaches which permit new insights into the function of books and libraries.

In this context the study of libraries will greatly profit from an instrument which supplements the traditional library catalogue on the one hand and the conventional library history on the other. What is needed is something which neither an index of whatever kind to the books in a collection nor an an account of its growth can supply: a 'profile' of the collection, which reveals, as does the 'rare books directory' with its descriptive surveys,its nature and structure. And this 'profile' should be done on the same principles and after the same manner as that of other collections, so that comparisons can be made not only of the sizes of collections but also of their constituent elements and their general character as libraries built up with specific objectives in mind. Such a 'profile' of a collection can and indeed does make visible the intention which lies behind the collection; it may also show its affinity with a recognizable 'type' of library.

The new short-title catalogue of eighteenth-century English books (ESTC) has generally underlined the need for looking at rare books in an international context. Not only has it brought to light a considerable amount of English printing outside the British Isles; it has also drawn attention

to the world-wide distribution of eighteenth-century English books. The presence of large numbers of them in foreign libraries is evidence of the expansion, beginning in the eighteenth century itself, of English culture into other areas. Similarly, other cultures have 'expanded' at various times in the past, and it is perhaps above all in the collections of early foreign books in our libraries that the nature and the intensity of these processes can be traced.

The recataloguing of early books is first and foremost a series of attempts to establish retrospective national bibliographies, and in these attempts foreign material must inevitably be disregarded, no matter how important it may be. But as a general descriptive guide to collections the 'rare books directory' can direct attention to these collections to the benefit of the book historian and his new associates, who move internationally and require guidance. Thus national 'rare books directories' which pay due regard to foreign collections in their respective countries may once again become our major, and in many cases even remain our only, guides in this generally uncharted territory.

III

Against this background sketch of some basic features and some possible uses of 'rare book directories' in general I should like to outline the new West German project of a directory. This project is financed by the Volkswagen Foundation and forms part of the Foundation's programme to support "documentation in the cultural disciplines". It is intended to provide a large-scale review of the rare book collections in the country.

The Handbuch der historischen Buchbestände, as it is called, will include several hundred libraries large and small and of divers ownership: state libraries, town and church libraries, old school libraries and others. It will, however, exclude on principle private libraries, unless these are, as in the case of some larger ducal libraries, readily accessible to the research scholar. The sole criterion for inclusion is the preservation in the library of a sufficiently large or especially interesting collection of 'rare' books. It has been decided that for the purposes of the directory

the term 'rare books' should signify material printed before 1900. Significant later material, particularly if preserved in special collections, will not be excluded but not treated in the same detail as pre-1900 material. Except in special circumstances, the Handbuch will not report on manuscript collections, since there are plans for a separate reference work on manuscript material.

The raison d'être of the project is, as it were, a 'classic' one: the non-existence of satisfactory retrospective catalogues. The German library system, as is well known, is a highly decentralized one; it lacks the unifying element of a national library which preserves, retrospectively, the national printed archive (the Deutsche Bibliothek is the national deposit library only for post-1945 publications.) As a result, the distribution of early printed books is enormously wide -- wider at any rate than in countries with a tradition of centralization. Germany was therefore among the first countries in which the need for a national union catalogue made itself felt. Work on it began as early as the 1880's, but only 14 volumes appeared. The rest of the catalogue, nearly complete in manuscript, must be written off as a war loss, together with about 15 million books.

The present-day interlibrary loan service is supported by a system of regional union catalogues distributed over the country and for various reasons not generally accessible to the individual inquirer. As a compilation of the catalogues of selected larger libraries these catalogues do by no means include all libraries with significant collections of early books. Though a project is under way to convert the the retrospective catalogues of two major libaries into machine-readable form, the general situation calls for a more detailed inventory than would otherwise be necessary.

Accordingly, an attempt will be made to compile the directory on a scale which compensates (as far as this is possible in a descriptive work) for the lack of catalogues and other research tools. In the first place, to ensure a good coverage, the directory will be done on a regional basis. Given the decentralized structure of the library system, this approach is as advisable as it is inevitable. There is a number of regional editors with small administrative staffs, whose task it is to work out plans for their respective regions and, in particular, to select the libraries to

be included. No questionnaires will be sent out but staff members of the regional offices will visit each library selected for inclusion to gain first-hand knowledge of the collections.

As a result, the directory will ultimately consist of a series of regionally divided directories. To ensure uniformity there is an additional central office, in which each part will finally be prepared for the press. Each entry will thus be edited twice: in the regional office and in the central office. One of the major responsibilities of the central office will be the compilation of the master index. Though there will be short indexes to each part, the usefulness of the directory as a national directory will of course depend on a proper conspectus. There will not only be the general indexes customarily expected in a work of this kind but also a number of synopses. Their purpose is to survey the material from a variety of viewpoints which take into account the needs of the librarian and of research scholars working in different disciplines.

Each entry in the directory consists of six sections, which are broadly defined to allow for readjustments in dealing with various types of libraries. The first section will contain purely administrative information. For the benefit of the user the Handbuch will be more detailed in these matters than the customary library directory. In addition to the obvious information it will include information on the acquisitions policy of each library, on its technical and reprographic services and on printed information available to the user. Finally, it will contain special information which it is hoped will be useful to the travelling scholar and to the foreign user.

The second section will consist of a concise history of the library. This survey will not be presented in tabular form but as a consecutive narrative. The emphasis will of course be on the growth of the collection, and though other aspects will not be neglected they will be treated only marginally. Special attention will be given to the presence in a library of other collections which at one point or another were 'incorporated'. The acquisition in toto of smaller libraries through purchase, donation etc. by state, university or other libraries is a well-known phenomenon of library history; but there is hardly any systematic account for a particular period

or a particular country of the migration of books from library to library. It is hoped that the Handbuch will provide, through exhaustive listing and appropriate indexing, more information than is currently available about extinct or 'dormant' libraries and thereby substantially contribute to a library history of the country which is of interest to librarians as well as to scholars.

As the central section of each entry the third section will contain the descriptive survey of the collection. It will be divided into four sub-sections, each presenting the collection from a different point of view. The first sub-section will give a chronological overview, so that the stratification of each collection becomes apparent. The division is simply by centuries. It suggests itself as a natural consequence of the dividing-lines which have been drawn for the incunable period and, subsequently, for the retrospective national bibliography of Germany. By and large it agrees with the internationally accepted divisions. The advantage of such a division is that terms like Barockdrucke, which are current but not clearly defined, can be avoided. What can be expected from this sub-section is basic information about the number of titles or volumes of each period held by each of the libraries selected, regardless of subject, language or provenance. The figures will be accompanied by a description of the method or methods used in establishing them.

The next sub-section will, if at all possible, present the individual library from a linguistic point of view. Historically, almost every European country was a multi-language area. Not only did the classical languages play an important role; printing in languages other than the national language occured almost everywhere. In addition, collections in foreign languages were built up, first in the European languages, later also in non-European languages. In Germany as well as in other countries, some of these collections are important and in significant ways complement the various national printed archives. One of the major objectives of the directory will therefore be to identify notable collections of foreign material and to bring them to the notice of German and foreign scholars. There are plans to provide the user of the directory in addition to the general indexes with a separate synopsis of early foreign printed books held by West German libraries.

The third sub-section -- presumably the longest passage in every entry -- will consist of a systematic survey by subjects. It is not intended to be a miniature subject index to the library's holdings but a sufficiently detailed description which provides as it were a contour map of the collection. It will indicate its nature (encylopaedic collection, special collection etc.) and bring out its strength in particular fields, so that its potential use for research purposes becomes apparent.

There can be no doubt that in attempting such a description the compiler encounters numerous difficulties. If his survey is to be helpful to the librarian and, moreover, to the research scholar, what is the appropriate framework for the description? Research is an ongoing process, and criteria which appear to be valid today may be found useless tomorrow. In an age of interdisciplinary work subject boundaries are fluid or even non-existent. In other words, it would seem undesirable to apply a rigid scheme to each and every collection, even if such a scheme could be agreed upon by librarians and scholars.

Our way out of this dilemma is to base the descriptive survey of a collection on its own classification. There is a subject classification for almost every collection of early printed books, and many of them date back to the time when the library was founded or reorganised for the first time. Many of these classifications are themselves of historical interest; they provide the research scholar with a contemporary perspective on the collection which may prove more illuminating than modern systems of subject classification. The famous eighteenth-century subject catalogue of Göttingen University Library is the outstanding example. In this and many other cases the the systematic survey will therefore preceded by a short description of the subject classification by which the collection is arranged.

At the same time, to ensure that due regard is paid to the requirements of research scholar, each compiler is provided with a list of the disciplines which are potentially interested in the historical material which he describes. Thus he may add certain elements to his description which make it possible to construct indexes or synopses especially designed for the benefit of scholars working in particular disciplines. These synopses will be planned in close consultation with experts. A model entry for a large and

highly complex collection, which has just been completed, shows [redacted] satisfactory results.

The fourth, and final, sub-section will consist of a description of special collections in each library. Special collections are defined as collections which for whatever reason are kept separately, regardless of whether or not they have been catalogued separately.

The descriptive survey will be followed by a survey of the available catalogues. This will include both modern and historical printed and manuscript catalogues. In many cases this section will simply take the form of an annotated bibliography. In others a fuller exposition of the situation may be required. We hope that the Handbuch will draw attention to a large number of catalogues (especially manuscript catalogues) about which little or nothing is known and that it will ultimately provide the historian of education, the historian of reading and many others with new source material.

The last two sections of each entry will be predominantly bibliographical. The first of these relates to the history of the library and will -- ideally -- consist of a short description of the archival material relating to the history of the library and, in particular, to the growth of the collection. This is followed by a formal bibliography of pertinent publications. The second refers to the descriptive survey and will comprise, in the form of an annotated bibliography, all publications relating to the collection: periodical articles, monographs, exhibition catalogues etc. It will also draw attention to facsimile reprints of very rare or unique items in the library.

Finally, each entry will contain information on the physical condition of the books in the libraries selected for inclusion. As far as the major libraries are concerned, this information may in some cases be available elsewhere. But there is virtually no information about the condition of the smaller collections. We hope that the Handbuch will also provide library administrators with the data they need to devise a national preservation programme, which is as essential for German libraries as for any other.

A work of this kind and this scope cannot be compiled by a few contributors. The personnel available in the regional editorial offices will have to deal with the smaller and small libraries, many of which are not administered by trained rare book librarians. In the larger libraries the Handbuch will have to solicit the help of experts. Fortunately, the expertise required for the compilation of the major entries is, generally speaking, locally available. Thus the directory of rare book collection in West Germany will be a collaborative effort, and we hope that it will be completed as a joint project of those who care about older and 'rare' books.

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NEW CRITERIA FOR RARE AND PRECIOUS BOOKS AND DOCUMENTS:

An AMERICAN VIEW

by

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NEW DIRECTIONS FOR RARE AND PRECIOUS BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS: AN AMERICAN VIEW

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When Ian Willison and William Matheson asked me to speak with you at this meeting, the primary reason was my chairmanship of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the American Library Association. They thought the members of the Rare and Precious Books and Documents Section of IFLA would enjoy knowing what activities and concerns were currently engaging the attention and abilities of an American group of rare books librarians. Hearing about the papers and seminars presented at last month's Rare Books and Manuscripts Section conference, also held in this city, might help illustrate the nature of these concerns and activities. Happily for me, as of the end of last month's ALA meeting, I am the past chair of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section; but I still have the honorof presenting some of the issues that were explored at this conference and try to place them in some kind of "American" context.

The theme of the Chicago conference, the twenty-sixth such annual conference of the Rare Books section, was "Changing Concepts of Value and Rarity," and we sought to explore how some of problems and issues raised by these

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changing concepts applied to library collections. We hoped, during the planning year, that speakers would address aspects of the question of how contemporary "rare book" culture has evolved its perception of what constitutes rarity and how our society -- that of libraries and research institutions -- relates rarity to value.

Speakers at the plenary sessions included Robert Rosenthal, from whom you've just heard, on the origins of some of Chicago's rare book collections and the fascinating peregrinations of books to this city. Bob's paper revealed how these books and collections helped define and describe the intellectual context of their locale.

Arthur Freeman of Bernard Quaritch, Inc. spoke amusingly and eloquently on the "corrupt register" between 1880 and 1920, challenging the concept of auction records as a reliable index to the history of values. Tracing the recorded auction prices of several important books over a forty year period, he ascribed prevailing economic conditions as a primary cause of increasing price, or value. But another cause of these fluctuations, perhaps even more significant than that of general economy, was the activity of an international ring of booksellers -- Quaritch himself was one. After the settlements paid by ring members to each other were deducted from the recorded sale price, the cost, or value, of the book had actually remained the

same during the forty years.

James Wells, Emeritus Custodian of the Wing Foundation on the History of Printing at the Newberry Library, spoke appealing on the role of exhibitions in awakening, or re-awakening, interest in books and culture. He spoke from experience: during his thirty-odd years at the Newberry, he himself prepared about 50 major exhibitions, plus helped with another thirty.

Books are static objects, difficult to make visually exciting. Their display must be limited to a couple of pages, defeating the whole purpose of a book -- its reading. But reasons for exhibiting them are several: instruction, entertainment, inspiration -- preferably all three. (Wells mentioned the less creditable motives such as to boast, to beg, to pay debts, to get publicity, to attract public attention and thus public support, but he did not dwell upon them.) They are usually chosen for their content, not their appearance. But how can curators, and exhibition designers, get viewers to think about the idea on display? How does one display an idea? How does one attract viewers and convey a sense of the "value" -- the intellectual and cultural value --of these materials?

Wells believes strongly in the role printed catalogues can play in conveying the intellectual sense of an

exhibition and a means of conveying the "value" of these materials. He cited the catalogues of The Grolier Club and the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris as models for splendid catalogues that commemmorate and enhance the value of exhibitions. "Printing and the Mind of Man," the great London exhibition held in 1963, was, to Wells, the most ambitious, intelligent, and influential exhibition in recent history. The catalogue describing the "value" of the nearly 800 books, manuscripts, and artifacts selected for the exhibition has influenced our modern concepts of rarity and value in ways that no other exhibition has.

And, according to Wells, the major satisfaction in preparing an exhibition is what one learns in the process. The need to organize ideas, to document or reject them, provides much information about <u>why</u> a library has collected certain materials and <u>what</u> those materials contribute to the intellectual value of that library.

Playing off the title of a popular board game that tests one's memory of a random collection of facts about a wide variety of subjects, Thomas Wright, Librarian of the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library at UCLA, spoke on "Rare Books and Special Collections: Trivial Pursuit?" (He was adamant about having the question mark at the end of this title.)

Wright addressed the lack of literature on the history of rare book librarianship, the lack of any work that takes an overview of the field and relates what we do to a larger cultural context. He also spoke about the development of the modern rare book library that now incorporates the idea of "special collections." This name change acknowldges that many of the materials held in these libraries are not necessarily "rare" or "valuable" as individual items. But, over the decades, the definition of what is important and appropriate for research within the academic world has been extended and redefined, resulting in an expansion of what is appropriate to be housed in a secure research facility, grouped with other, similar materials (some, perhaps, quite rare.) The value of most modern rare book facilities is defined by the context they have established, by the relationships among books. Their value is in their utility to research and scholarship.

Wright proposed that the future history of rare book libraries will be shaped even more radically by the academic world than it has been in the past. The fortunes of rare book libraries are irrevocably tied to the fortunes of the academic world, and for that reason it behooves us to understand the problems and prospects of that world. We cannot be adequate "interpreters" or "translators" of our rare book collections if we do know only one language. We

may be far better equipped to articulate the intellectual history embodied in our books if we have some acquaintance with history of scholarship and current research.

In "An Appraiser's Eyeview of the Market," Kenneth Rendell, president of his own manuscripts and appraisal firm, focused on the availability, or lack thereof, of materials to institutions and the response of what he terms "a new breed of rare book professionals." Rendell believes every factor affecting the collecting of rare books and manuscripts has changed significantly in the past few years: both the quantity and quality of material available to institutions has declined; many private collectors are developing collections of diminished research value to institutions; the 1969 tax laws have dried up donations of papers to institutions; the maximum income tax rates make for a less attractive environment in which to donate materials; institutional budgets suffer from Reagonomics and its local versions; and inflation has taken its toll on the capabilities of funding generated from endowments.

To his way of thinking, however, today's special collections librarians deal with these negative changes with a far more professional approach than was required of many of their predecessors. These librarians have changed previous concepts of value, not just in the financial sense, but in the philosophical context. Special

collections are reaching out into areas previously uncollected, or only sparsely collected, both in terms of subject matter and formats which modern technology helps create. "The modern special collections librarian is less of a collector in the traditional institutional context, and more of a creator of acquisition policies and ideas that conform to budget, to opportunity, and to the mission of the institution."

Some years ago, Rendell posited, many of the rare book librarians he worked with had begun their careers as curators for private collectors. When the collector donated his collection to an institution, he often endowed the position of curator or librarian, or convinced the institution to hire the curator on institutional funds. The librarian's allegiance, in terms of the collection's goals and criteria, were to those of the collection's creator. Years after the donor was no longer active or deceased, the curator would be carrying out their wishes and designs. To Rendell, many of today's special collection librarians seem to have more in common with business school graduates than with curators of the past generation. Today's librarians are governed more by the institutions collecting policies and institutional goals than by personal interests. This attitude is complemented by an awareness of public and donor relations.

The pursuit of modern manuscript collections is a major change in the concept of what is considered valuable to special collections departments. Formerly, the collecting of modern papers was actively and aggressively pursued by few institutions. With the wealth of twentieth-century manuscript and archival material available, perhaps the most important role the modern special collections librarian plays is the decision about what materials will be preserved for future generations.

In "Special Collections at the Center of the University," Paul Mosher, Deputy Director of Libraries at Stanford University and well-known for his lucid and persuasive contributions to the literature of collection development, emphasized changing concepts of service and value for special collections. The value of materials to an academic research library can be measured by its useful value to the mission of the institution. Like Wright, Mosher believes rare book librarians must be knowledgeable about their world; we must embrace and participate in, and perhaps help define the mission and goals of the university.

Ostensibly the nature of special collections and their value stem from the mission -- the programs, objectives and goals of the university -- integrated with and evaluated against other library collections and services, expressed

through the collection development policy of the library. But it is also an accumulation of cultural traditions -- European and American chiefly, but often others as well.

However, in many of our libraries -- especially in the more recently civilized portions of the country such as the Mid and Far West -- materials have been accumulated imitatively of the great centers of the East Coast, chiefly because they represent the canonic texts of our cultural tradition. At their best, special collections departments can be dynamic centers of teaching and research, filled with graduate students and faculty performing research and textual study. But all too often, they have become cultural cult-centers, little frequented, little used, isolated from the mainstream. This is an embarrassing fact, and it must be addressed: too many of our special collections departments are underutilized, and intentionally underfunded. Within most universities' order of things, these symptoms indicate that special collections libraries may have considered the wrong kind of value, confusing traditional value with centrality of value to the university. Hence, the dimished resources many universities now spend on special collections.

Special collections librarians may need to reintegrate themselves appropriately into the library's collection development and management programs. Only by guiding and

fostering strong links with the collection development community of the library -- with its strong sense of academic values and service to scholarship -- can the concept of utility prevail over the concept of predciosity that has too often come to represent the value of special collections to the library and the university.

While the plenary sessions of the Rare Book and Manuscripts Section conference offered much grist for our intellectual mills, seminar sessions offered more practical discussions. Seminars now comprise more than half of the conference program, and provide fora for topics of a more "operational" nature. Issues investigated in July ranged from the design and renovation of special collections facilities to manuscript valuations and appraisals; the Tax Reform Act of 1984 and chairtable contributions; RLIN implementation of the MARC archives and manuscripts control format, the use of volunteers and docents in rare book collections, conservation planning, and deaccessioning of materials.

Planning is already well underway for the 1986 Rare Books and Manuscript Section conference, which will be held in New York. That meeting will focus on collecting the arts -- prints, films, photographs, posters, illustrated books, etc.

(Discussion of RBMS and new journal)